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Baquer, S, Frantzeskakis, DJ, Horikis, T, Houdeville, C, Marchant, TR & Smyth, NF 2021, 'Nematic dispersive shock waves from nonlocal to local', *Applied Sciences*, vol. 11, no. 11, 4736.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/app11114736>

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.3390/app11114736](https://doi.org/10.3390/app11114736)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

Published In:

Applied Sciences

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Nematic dispersive shock waves from nonlocal to local

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Citation: Baqer, S.; Frantzeskakis, D.J.; Horikis, T.P.; Houdeville, C.; Marchant, T.R.; Smyth, N.F. Nematic dispersive shock waves from nonlocal to local. *Appl. Sci.* **2021**, *1*, 0. <https://doi.org/>

Received:

Accepted:

Published:

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Abstract: The structure of optical dispersive shock waves in nematic liquid crystals is investigated as the power of the optical beam is varied, with six regimes identified, which complements previous work pertinent to low power beams only. It is found that the dispersive shock wave structure depends critically on the input beam power. In addition, it is known that nematic dispersive shock waves are resonant and the structure of this resonant is also critically dependent on the beam power. Whitham modulation theory is used to find solutions for the six regimes with the existence intervals for each identified. These dispersive shock wave solutions are compared with full numerical solutions of the nematic equations and excellent agreement is found.

Keywords: nematic liquid crystal; dispersive shock wave; solitary wave; soliton; modulation theory

1. Introduction

Nematic liquid crystals form an ideal medium to study nonlinear optics due to their “huge” nonlinearity, which is orders of magnitude larger than that of optical fibres, so that nonlinear effects can be observed over millimetre distances [1–4]. In particular, the refractive index of nematic liquid crystals increases with optical intensity, so that they form a focussing medium. When a light beam propagates through a nematic liquid crystal, the electric field of the electromagnetic wave induces dipoles in the nematic molecules, which then rotate, changing the refractive index. In addition, nematic liquid crystals have a non-local response to an optical beam in that the elastic response of the nematic extends far beyond the optical forcing [4]. An optical beam propagating through a nematic medium can then form its own waveguide, resulting in a self-guided beam, an optical solitary wave, termed a “nematicon” [2,3,5,6], which was first experimentally generated and observed in 2000 [6]. Since this first observation, nematons, and related solitary-type waves, such as optical vortices, have become a theme of intense experimental and theoretical research effort, driven both by interest in the nonlinear optics of nematic liquid crystals and also by their potential applications

in optical devices [7–10]; see Refs. [2,3,5,11] for general reviews on the nonlinear optics of nematic liquid crystals.

Solitary waves are generic wave forms for nonlinear dispersive wave equations [12], first observed and studied in the context of water waves [12,13] and fluid dynamics [12], but are widespread in nature arising, e.g., in solid mechanics [14], biology [15], ecology [16], and the above mentioned context of nonlinear optics [2,17,18], for instance. One of the appealing features of solitary waves, in addition to their widespread occurrence in nature, is that they are localized waves with steady profiles, which makes them easier to study theoretically. In addition to this, many generic nonlinear dispersive wave equations, such as the Korteweg-de Vries (KdV), nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) and Sine-Gordon equations, are completely integrable systems via the Inverse Scattering Transform method [12,18]. Thus, a general initial condition for these equations will form a finite number of solitary waves, plus dispersive radiation. In addition, solitary wave solutions of integrable nonlinear dispersive wave equations, solitons, interact “elastically”, i.e., they emerge unscathed out of the interaction without any change in their form; hence, due to this particle-like behaviour, solitary waves are termed solitons for such equations.

Another generic wave form supported by nonlinear dispersive wave equations are the dispersive shock waves (DSWs), also termed undular bores; these structures are as widespread in nature as solitary waves, with well known examples being tidal bores and tsunamis [19]. In contrast to a solitary wave, a DSW is a non-steady wave form which continuously expands. A DSW is a dispersive regularization of a discontinuity and is a modulated periodic wavetrain with solitary waves at one edge and linear, dispersive waves at the other— see [19] for a general review of DSWs. Since DSWs are non-steady waveforms, their study is more difficult than that for solitary waves. The development of DSW solutions of nonlinear dispersive wave equations relies chiefly on Whitham modulation theory [12,20–22], which is a version of the asymptotic method of multiple scales that is used to analyse slowly varying periodic wavetrains. Whitham modulation equations are a system of partial differential equations which govern the parameters of a slowly varying wavetrain, such as its amplitude, wavenumber, frequency and mean height. If this system is hyperbolic, then the underlying wavetrain is modulationally stable, while if it is elliptic, the wavetrain is unstable [12]. A major achievement of Whitham modulation theory was the development of the modulation equations for the KdV equation [12,21]. These modulation equations form a hyperbolic system, so that the cnoidal wave solution of the KdV equation is modulationally stable. It was subsequently realized that a simple wave solution of the KdV modulation equations is a DSW [23], even though the initial condition is a step, which is not slowly varying. This DSW solution is in excellent agreement with numerical solutions of the KdV equation [24]. The key to the determination of the simple wave DSW solution is the ability to set the modulation equations in Riemann invariant form. If the nonlinear dispersive wave equation governing the DSW is integrable, then its Whitham modulation equations can be automatically set in Riemann invariant form [25], so that the DSW solution can easily be found.

As mentioned above, the standard DSW form, termed of KdV type [19], is a modulated periodic wave with solitary waves at one edge and linear dispersive waves at the other. A non-standard DSW type is a resonant DSW [26,27], for which the waves of the DSW are in resonance with (linear) dispersive waves, resulting in a resonant wavetrain being emitted from the DSW. Resonant DSWs also occur for the KdV equation with next higher-order dispersion, i.e., fifth-order dispersion, namely for the Kawahara equation [28], and the NLS equation with next order, third-order dispersion [29–32]. If the emitted resonant wavetrain is of large enough amplitude, the KdV-type DSW structure can be destroyed; this results in the so-called traveling dispersive shock wave (TDSW) regime [26,27], consisting of a resonant wavetrain with negative polarity solitary wave, which is the remnant of the DSW, linking this to the level behind [26]— see Figure 2(d)

below for an example of such a TDSW. A nematic liquid crystal is a focusing medium and, thus, optical waves are modulationally unstable; as a result, an optical DSW is not supported. However, the addition of azo dyes to the nematic medium changes its response so that it becomes defocusing [33]; in this case, nematics can support DSWs [34–36]. A nematic DSW is an example of a resonant DSW [34–36]. In these works, the nematic DSW was studied in the highly nonlocal limit, for which the nematic elastic response extends far beyond the light beam, with the nematic DSW generated by a step jump in the optical intensity. While the nematic equations are of NLS-type [2], in the highly nonlocal limit the nematic bore is of KdV-type and is well described by the DSW solution of the KdV equation. The nematic DSW structure is highly dependent on the size of the jump of the optical electric field intensity generating it, with six distinct DSW types identified [36].

As stated above, in the highly nonlocal limit the nematic DSW is of KdV-type with the DSW having positive polarity. However, in the limit of weak nonlocality, the nematic equations reduce to the NLS equation [2,4], and the nematic DSW becomes the NLS DSW, which is non-resonant. The degree of nonlocality of the optical response of a nematic is inversely proportional to the power of the optical beam, with the response being highly nonlocal for lower power beams, transitioning to local as the beam power increases [2,4], as will be detailed in Section 2. In this work, the evolution of the nematic DSW structure as the degree of nonlocality ranges from highly nonlocal (low-power beams) [34–36] to local (high-power beams) will be studied. As the nonlocality decreases, the changes in the DSW structure from those previously found [36] in the limit of high nonlocality to the standard NLS DSW [38] will be identified and the solutions for these will be derived. It is found that there exist two additional DSW regimes over those for large nonlocality, including the NLS DSW for zero nonlocality. The new DSW regime is a transition between the KdV DSW behavior for large nonlocality and the NLS DSW behavior for very small nonlocality. In this regime, the DSW structure consists of a resonant wavetrain headed by a partial DSW which takes the solution to the initial level ahead, similar to the resonant DSW for the KdV equation with fifth-order dispersion [27,39]. As the nonlocality decreases, the optical power increases, the resonant wavetrain contracts with the leading partial DSW expanding and becoming a full NLS DSW. The analytical solutions for the various DSW types will be compared with full numerical solutions of the nematic equations.

2. Nematic Equations

Let us consider the propagation of a linearly, extra-ordinarily polarized, coherent light beam of wavenumber k_0 , wavelength $\lambda_0 = 2\pi/k_0$, through a planar cell filled with nematic liquid crystals. The optical beam is assumed to propagate down the cell along in the Z direction, with its electric field E polarised in the Y direction. The coordinate X then completes the coordinate system. Nematic liquid crystals are a uniaxial medium consisting of elongated molecules, with the long axis termed the molecular director. The refractive index of the medium is n_{\parallel} for optical beams polarized along the molecular director and n_{\perp} for fields polarized orthogonal to the director. A fundamental property of nematic liquid crystals is that the feature the so-called Freédericksz threshold, whereby a minimum optical power is needed to rotate the nematic molecules and thus change the refractive index of the medium [1]. However, high optical powers lead to heating of the nematic medium, which can cause the loss of the nematic state if the temperature change is high enough [1,6]. One method to overcome this is to pre-tilt the nematic molecules at an angle θ_0 with respect to the Z -direction upon the application of an external static electric field E_{LF} , so that milli-Watt power beams can rotate the nematic molecules [6]. Let us denote the optically induced rotation of the nematic by ϕ , so that in the presence of an optical beam the total angle of the nematic director to the Z direction is $\theta = \theta_0 + \phi$. This configuration of the nematic cell is illustrated in

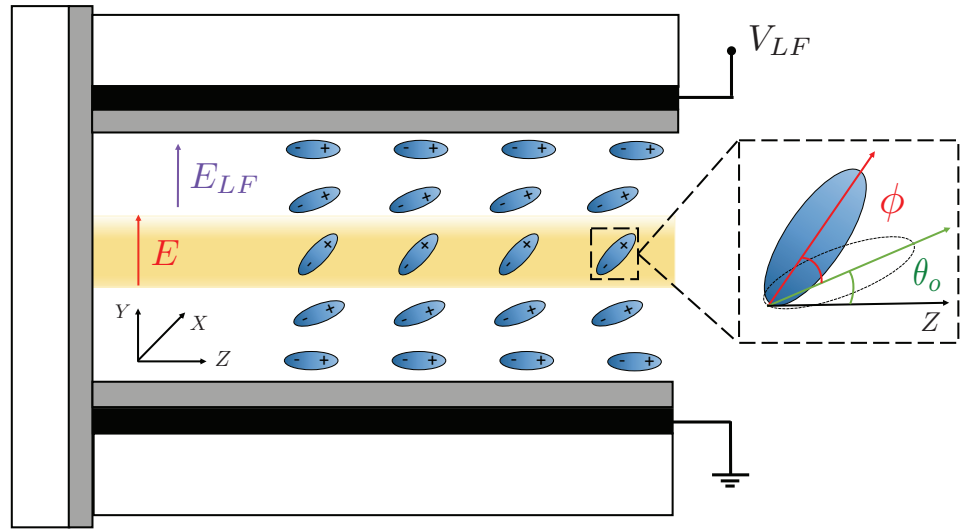


Figure 1. Sketch of nematic cell. A coherent light beam (yellow region) whose electric field E is polarised in the Y direction propagates in the Z direction through a cell filled with a dye-doped nematic liquid crystal. Thin film electrodes (black) are deposited on the upper and lower cell walls (grey). An external low frequency voltage bias V_{LF} creates an electric field E_{LF} to pre-tilt the molecules at an angle θ_0 to Z . The nematic molecules which are located at the boundaries are held tightly by the virtue of the anchoring films. The far right inset (black) dashed box exhibits the angular rotation of a nematic molecule with respect to the propagation direction Z in the absence (θ_0) and presence ($\theta_0 + \phi$) of the optical beam.

Figure 1. The dimensional equations governing the propagation of the optical beam in the nematic cell are then of the following form:

$$2ik_0n_e\frac{\partial E}{\partial Z} + \nabla^2 E + k_0^2 \left[n_{\perp}^2 \cos^2 \theta + n_{\parallel}^2 \sin^2 \theta - n_{\perp}^2 \cos^2 \theta_0 - n_{\parallel}^2 \sin^2 \theta_0 \right] E = 0, \quad (1)$$

for the electric field of the beam and

$$K\nabla^2 \phi + \left[\frac{1}{4}\epsilon_0\Delta\epsilon|E|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\epsilon_{LF}E_{LF}^2 \right] \sin 2(\theta_0 + \phi) = 0, \quad (2)$$

for the nematic response [2–5]. Here, the extraordinary refractive index of the nematic is:

$$n_e^2 = \frac{n_{\perp}^2 n_{\parallel}^2}{n_{\parallel}^2 \cos^2 \theta + n_{\perp}^2 \sin^2 \theta}. \quad (3)$$

115 In the above equations, $\Delta\epsilon = n_{\parallel}^2 - n_{\perp}^2$ is the optical anisotropy, $\Delta\epsilon_{LF}$ is the low-frequency
 116 dielectric anisotropy and ϵ_0 is the electrical permittivity of free space. In addition, the
 117 constant K is the elastic medium constant in the one constant approximation for which
 118 the elastic constants of bend, twist and splay are taken equal [1,2].

The nematic equations (1) and (2) are highly nonlinear and difficult to analyse. However, for milli-Watt power beams the optical induced rotation ϕ is small, $|\phi| \ll \theta_0$, so that these equations can be expanded in Taylor series around $|\phi|$. In addition, these equations can be put in dimensionless form using typical scales L_Z down the cell and W transverse to the down cell direction, as well as a typical scale A_b for the electric field of the optical beam, so that

$$Z = L_Z z, \quad X = Wx, \quad Y = Wy, \quad E = A_b u. \quad (4)$$

Here, (x, y, z) is the non-dimensional coordinate system and u is the non-dimensional electric field of the optical beam. The electric field scale is obtained by assuming that the input optical beam is a Gaussian beam of power P_b , amplitude A_b and width W_b , so that

$$A_b^2 = \frac{2P_b}{\pi\Gamma W_b^2}, \quad \Gamma = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 c n_e, \quad n_e^2 = \frac{n_{\parallel}^2 n_{\perp}^2}{n_{\parallel}^2 \cos^2 \theta_0 + n_{\perp}^2 \sin^2 \theta_0}. \quad (5)$$

Substituting these into the nematic equations (1) and (2), and expanding in Taylor series for small $|\phi|$, we find [5,40] that suitable scalings are

$$L_Z = \frac{4n_e}{\Delta\epsilon k_0 \sin 2\theta_0}, \quad W = \frac{2}{k_0 \sqrt{\Delta\epsilon \sin 2\theta_0}}, \quad (6)$$

119 and the resulting non-dimensional equations read

$$i\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 u + 2\phi u = 0, \quad (7)$$

$$\nu\nabla^2 \phi - 2q\phi = -2|u|^2. \quad (8)$$

Here, the dimensionless elasticity and pre-tilting parameters, ν and q , are given by

$$\nu = \frac{8K}{\epsilon_0 \Delta\epsilon A_b^2 W^2 \sin 2\theta_0} = \frac{\pi K \Gamma k_0^2 W_b^2}{\epsilon_0 P_b}, \quad q = \frac{4\Delta\epsilon_{LF} E_{LF}^2 \cos 2\theta_0}{\epsilon_0 \Delta\epsilon A_b^2 \sin 2\theta_0}. \quad (9)$$

Typical experimental beam parameter values are power $P_b = 2mW$ and half-width $W_b = 1.5\mu m$, with a wavelength $\lambda_0 = 2\pi/k_0 = 1.064\mu m$ in the near infrared [2,5]. For the liquid crystal E7, a typical elastic constant is $K = 1.2 \times 10^{-11} N$. These parameter values give the elasticity parameter $\nu = O(100)$, as found in other studies [5,41,42]. This high value of ν means that the nematic is operating in the highly nonlocal regime, in that the elastic response of the nematic extends far beyond the waist of the optical beam [2–4]. However, ν is inversely proportional to the beam power P_b . Note that for $\nu = 0$ the nematic equations (7) and (8) reduce to the standard NLS equation

$$i\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 u + \frac{2}{q}|u|^2 u = 0. \quad (10)$$

120 This is the local response limit for the nematic. Note that in $(2+1)$ -dimensions, beams
 121 governed by this equation are unstable and can show catastrophic collapse above a
 122 critical power [17]. It is known that a nonlocal response, ν large, stabilizes $(2+1)$ -
 123 dimensional optical beams [2–5]. This is because the nematic response equation (2) is
 124 elliptic and so its solution depends on u in the entire domain, the origin of the physical
 125 concept of nonlocality. Hence, by adjusting the beam power P_b , the response of the
 126 medium can be adjusted from nonlocal to local, as long as the induced heating does not
 127 destroy the nematic phase at high power.

128 The nematic system (7) and (8) is a focusing NLS-type system, that is the refractive
 129 index in the dimensional equation (1) increases with beam intensity $|u|^2$. Since focus-
 130 ing NLS equations do not possess (stable) DSW solutions, the equation needs to be
 131 defocusing; in such a case, the refractive index decreases with beam intensity, and DSW
 132 solutions do exist [19]. The nematic medium can feature a defocusing response through
 133 the addition of azo-dyes [33]. The change in the nematic response due to the addition
 134 of the azo-dye is physically complicated, with the “order parameter” change being op-
 135 posite to that without the presence of the dye. A simple model of this response change
 136 is to modify the electric field equation (7) from focusing to defocusing. In addition,
 137 the analysis of DSWs is simplest in $(1+1)$ -dimensions as then there are no geometric

138 spreading effects. With these assumptions and simplifications, the nematic equations
139 become

$$i\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - 2\phi u = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$\nu\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - 2q\phi = -2|u|^2. \quad (12)$$

The same system of equations also describes optical beam propagation in thermal optical media for which the refractive index depends on the temperature of the medium [43]. Such thermal optical media typically have a defocusing response. For these defocusing nematic equations, a suitable initial condition which will generate a DSW is the intensity jump initial condition

$$u = \begin{cases} u_-, & x < 0 \\ u_+, & x > 0 \end{cases}, \quad \phi = \begin{cases} \frac{u_-^2}{q}, & x < 0 \\ \frac{u_+^2}{q}, & x > 0 \end{cases}. \quad (13)$$

140 The DSW solution of the defocusing nematic equations (11) and (12) has been studied
141 in the highly nonlocal limit $\nu \gg 1$ in previous work [34–36]. As stated above, in the
142 local limit $\nu \ll 1$ this system reduces to a perturbed defocusing NLS equation and
143 becomes the defocusing NLS equation for $\nu = 0$. The DSW solution of the defocusing
144 NLS equation is known [38], so that the perturbed local DSW solution can be found
145 using perturbed Whitham modulation theory [44]. Before studying the behaviour of
146 the nematic DSW as ν varies from large to small, some previously derived results [34–
147 36] will be briefly summarized.

148 The analytical DSW solutions derived in this Section will be compared with full nu-
149 merical solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12) with the initial condition (13).
150 The electric field equation (11) will be solved using the pseudo-spectral method of Forn-
151 berg and Whitham [24], as extended [45,46] to improve the stability for high wavenum-
152 bers through the use of an integrating factor. The x derivatives are calculated using
153 the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) and the solution is advanced in z in Fourier space
154 employing the fourth-order Runge-Kutta method, as detailed in previous work [36,37].
155 The step initial condition (13) was smoothed using the hyperbolic tangent function, as
156 detailed in [36,37]. The director equation (12) was also solved using the FFT, with does
157 not have a singularity at zero wavenumber due to the $2q\theta$ term.

158 Figure 2 displays a summary of the nematic DSW types as the nonlocality ν varies
159 from large ν , corresponding to a highly nonlocal response for low beam power, to small
160 ν , pertinent to a local medium response for high beam power. The terminology for
161 the DSW regimes will be taken from previous work on radiating DSWs [26,36]. In
162 particular, the DSW regimes from nonlocal to local response will now be detailed, for
163 $u_- = 1$ and $u_+ = 0.8$, with the existence intervals for the various DSW types given in
164 Table 1.

- 165 • PDSW (perturbed DSW): This regime is illustrated in Figure 2(a). The nematic
166 DSW is essentially a KdV DSW governed by the Kawahara equation (44) and its
167 solution can be found as a perturbed KdV DSW [36,47]. This DSW regime is non-
168 resonant and there is no resonant wavetrain attached to the leading edge of the
169 DSW.
- 170 • RDSW (radiating DSW): As the nonlocality ν decreases, the DSW becomes reso-
171 nant with a resonant wavetrain attached to the leading edge of the DSW, as illus-
172 trated in Figure 2(b). As all individual waves in the DSW are resonant, resonant
173 waves are emitted from the DSW, which results in the DSW not being rank ordered
174 [36].

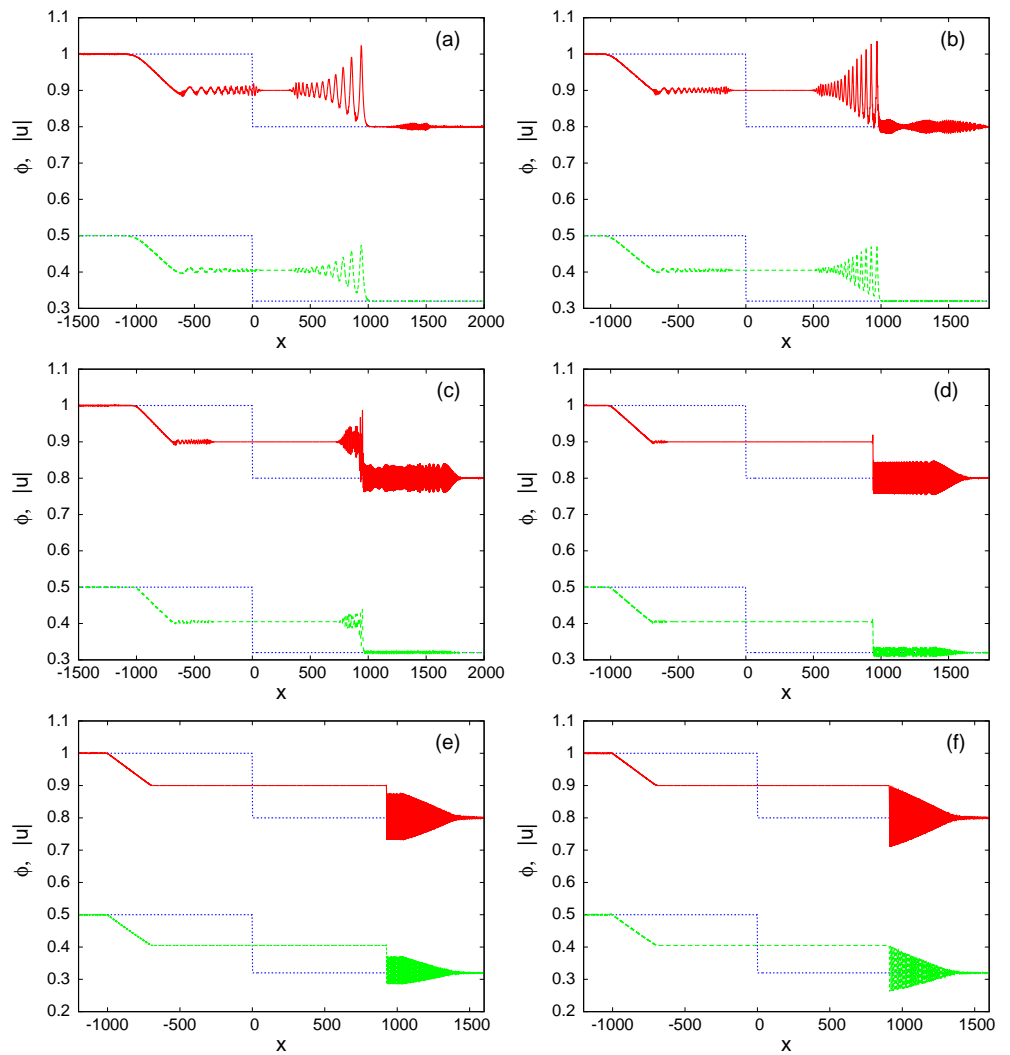


Figure 2. Numerical solutions of nematic equations (11) and (12) for initial condition (13) with $u_+ = 0.8$ and $u_- = 1.0$. Red (solid) lines: $|u|$ at $z = 1000$; green (dashed) lines: ϕ at $z = 1000$; blue (dotted) lines: $|u|$ at $z = 0$ (upper) and ϕ at $z = 0$ (lower). (a) PDSW with $\nu = 200$, (b) RDSW with $\nu = 40$, (c) CDSW with $\nu = 10$, (d) TDSW with $\nu = 3.0$, (e) resonant NLS type DSW with $\nu = 1.0$, (f) NLS type DSW with $\nu = 0.5$. Here $q = 2$.

PDSW	$88 < \nu$
RDSW	$34 < \nu < 88$
CDSW	$4.1 < \nu < 34$
TDSW	$1.53 < \nu < 4.1$
RNLS DSW	$0.60 < \nu < 1.53$
NLS DSW	$0 \leq \nu < 0.60$

Table 1: Regime boundaries for type classifications of Figure 2. Here $u_- = 1.0$, $u_+ = 0.8$ and $q = 2$.

- CDSW (crossover DSW): As the nonlocality decreases and the amplitude of the resonant wavetrain grows, the DSW becomes unstable with a total loss of the rank ordering of the waves of the DSW [26,36]. This regime is illustrated in Figure 2(c).
- TDSW (travelling DSW): As the amplitude of the resonant wavetrain grows, the shedding of conserved quantities into resonant radiation eventually destroys the DSW, leaving a high amplitude resonant wavetrain with a negative polarity solitary wave linking this wavetrain to the intermediate level [26] as seen in Figure 2(d). While there is a solitary wave linking the resonant wavetrain to the intermediate level, this linking can be conveniently treated as a Whitham shock [48], a shock wave in the Whitham modulation equation variables. The resonant wavetrain is brought down to the level u_+ ahead by a partial DSW [36]. This partial DSW has linear dispersive waves at its leading edge, but has a finite wavelength wave at its trailing edge, that is, it is not bounded by solitary waves at the trailing edge [39,49], as for a standard DSW.
- RNLS DSW (radiating NLS DSW): Further decrease in the nonlocality results in the amplitude of the linking solitary wave becoming negligible, so that the wave form consists of a (stable) resonant wavetrain headed by a partial DSW which brings the wavetrain down to the level u_+ ahead, as seen in Figure 2(e). This DSW regime does not occur in the high nonlocality limit as it is a “bridge” to the local NLS DSW for $\nu = 0$.
- NLS DSW: As the nonlocality ν decreases to $\nu = 0$ and the nematic equations (11) and (12) reduce to the NLS equation, the resonant wavetrain length contracts and the leading partial DSW evolves to a full DSW, with linear dispersive waves at the leading edge and solitary waves at the trailing edge. The resonant wavetrain then disappears and the leading DSW bringing the wavetrain down to the level u_+ ahead attaches to the intermediate level with $|u| = u_i$, as in Figure 2(f). The resulting DSW is essentially an NLS DSW, which completes the transition from the KdV-type DSW for high nonlocality, that is for low power beams, to a NLS DSW for low nonlocality, that is for high power beams.

In addition to these six DSW types, when $u_- - u_+$ is large enough as $u_+ \rightarrow 0$ there is an additional DSW type which is a sub-case of the TDSW regime, the vacuum DSW (VDSW) [38], for which the electric field u of the resonant radiation vanishes at a point [35,36]. As the solution for this DSW type has been previously analysed [36] and it is a sub-case of the TDSW regime, it will not be considered here. In addition, the analytical work of this manuscript is based on $u_- - u_+$ being small, which is not valid in the VDSW regime.

Table 1 shows that the transition regimes of TDSW and RNLS DSW which evolve the DSW from the KdV-type DSW for high nonlocality to the NLS-type DSW for weak nonlocality exist for very restricted ranges of ν , so that this transition is rapid. Over most of the range of ν the DSW is of KdV-type, one of the PDSW, RDSW and CDSW types. As noted, the first four DSW regimes also occur for the Kahawara equation and the nematic equations in the lower power, high nonlocality limit.

The standard method to analyse DSW solutions of nonlinear dispersive wave equations of the defocusing NLS-type is to transform the equation into the hydrodynamic form using the Madelung transformation [19]

$$u = \sqrt{\rho} e^{i\psi}, \quad v = \psi_x, \quad (14)$$

where the real functions ρ and ψ denote the density and phase of the field u , while v is the fluid velocity. Upon substituting, it is found that the nematic equations (11) and (12) become

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\rho v) = 0, \quad (15)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + 2 \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\rho_{xx}}{4\rho} - \frac{\rho_x^2}{8\rho^2} \right) = 0, \quad (16)$$

$$v \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - 2q\phi = -2\rho. \quad (17)$$

The nematic equations are characterized by the linear dispersion relation [34,35]

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\rho}k}}{\sqrt{vk^2 + 2q}} \left[\frac{vk^2 + 2q}{4\bar{\rho}} k^3 + 4k \right]^{1/2}, \quad (18)$$

for waves around the mean level $\bar{\rho}$ for ρ and \bar{v} for v . In the short wave and high nonlocality limit, $vk^2 \gg 1$, this dispersion relation can be approximated by

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + \frac{1}{2}k^2 + \dots \quad (19)$$

In the opposite local limit with v small, the dispersion relation can be expanded as

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + k^2 \left[\frac{1}{4}k^2 + \frac{2}{q}\bar{\rho} \right]^{1/2} - \frac{v\bar{\rho}k^3}{2q^2} \left[\frac{1}{4}k^2 + \frac{2}{q}\bar{\rho} \right]^{-1/2} + \dots \quad (20)$$

As expected, at the leading-order, $O(1)$, this dispersion relation is the same as that for the NLS equation [19,50]. These dispersion relations are needed for the determination of the resonant wavetrain generated by the nematic DSW by which the linear phase velocity is matched to the velocity of the DSW front.

As seen from Figure 2, the solution outside of the DSW and the resonant wavetrain is non-dispersive. On neglecting dispersion, the nematic equations (15)–(17) become the shallow water equations [12] with ρ playing the role of fluid depth and v the (horizontal) fluid velocity. In Riemann invariant form, the dispersionless nematic equations read:

$$v + \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}\sqrt{\rho} = R_+ = \text{constant} \quad \text{on} \quad C_+ : \frac{dx}{dz} = V_+ = v + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}\sqrt{\rho} \quad (21)$$

$$v - \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}\sqrt{\rho} = R_- = \text{constant} \quad \text{on} \quad C_- : \frac{dx}{dz} = V_- = v - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}\sqrt{\rho}, \quad (22)$$

The initial level behind u_- is linked to the intermediate shelf by a simple wave on the characteristic C_- . This simple wave solution has been derived previously [34–36] and is of the form:

$$|u| = \sqrt{\rho} = \begin{cases} u_-, & \frac{x}{z} < -\frac{\sqrt{2}u_-}{\sqrt{q}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{q}}{3\sqrt{2}} \left[\frac{2\sqrt{2}u_-}{\sqrt{q}} - \frac{x}{z} \right], & -\frac{\sqrt{2}u_-}{\sqrt{q}} \leq \frac{x}{z} \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}(2u_- - 3\sqrt{\rho_i}), \\ \sqrt{\rho_i}, & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}(2u_- - 3\sqrt{\rho_i}) < \frac{x}{z} \leq s_i \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

with $v = 2\sqrt{2}(u_- - \sqrt{\rho})/\sqrt{q}$, where s_i is the velocity of the trailing edge of the DSW which lies on the intermediate level u_i . This level can be determined by the requirement that the Riemann invariant along the characteristics C_- , that is, R_- , is conserved across the nematic DSW [34], giving

$$u_i = \frac{1}{2}(u_- + u_+). \quad (24)$$

We can see from the above calculations that the phase gradient on the intermediate level v_i is then

$$v_i = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}(u_- - \sqrt{\rho_i}). \quad (25)$$

228 In the small jump limit $|u_- - u_+| \ll 1$ the nematic equations (11) and (12) can be
229 reduced –in the high nonlocality regime ($\nu \gg 1$) under consideration– to a KdV equation
230 with fifth-order dispersion [35,51]. This will be justified below upon employing a
231 multiscale expansion method.

2.1. Derivation of the extended KdV and Kawahara equations

We seek solutions of Eqs. (14)–(16) in the form of the following asymptotic expansions in the formal small parameter $\varepsilon \equiv \sqrt{u_i - u_+}$ (with $0 < \varepsilon \ll 1$)

$$|u|^2 = \rho = \rho_+ + \varepsilon^2 \rho_1(\xi, \eta) + \varepsilon^4 \rho_2(\xi, \eta) + \dots, \quad (26)$$

$$v = \varepsilon^2 V_1 + \varepsilon^4 V_2 + \varepsilon^6 V_3 + \dots \quad (27)$$

$$\phi = \frac{\rho_+}{q} + \varepsilon^2 \phi_1 + \varepsilon^4 \phi_2 + \varepsilon^6 \phi_3 + \dots, \quad (28)$$

where $\rho_+ = u_+^2$, and the unknown functions ρ_j , V_j and ϕ_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) depend on the stretched variables

$$\xi = \varepsilon(x - Uz), \quad \eta = \varepsilon^3 z. \quad (29)$$

233 Here, U will be treated as an unknown velocity, which will be determined self-consistently.

Substituting the expansions (26)–(28) into Eqs. (14)–(16), and using the stretched coordinates (29), we obtain a set of equations at the different orders in ε . In particular, at the leading order, we derive the following linear equations:

$$O(\varepsilon^2): \quad \rho_1 - q\phi_1 = 0 \quad (30)$$

and

$$O(\varepsilon^3): \quad UV_{1\xi} - 2\phi_{1\xi} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad U\rho_{1\xi} - u_+^2 V_{1\xi} = 0, \quad (31)$$

where subscripts denote partial derivatives. The compatibility of the above equations suggests that the squared velocity U^2 is given by $U^2 = 2u_+^2/q$. Next, Eqs. (14)–(16) yield a set of nonlinear equations, namely:

$$O(\varepsilon^4): \quad 2\rho_2 - 2q\phi_2 + \nu\phi_{1\xi\xi} = 0 \quad (32)$$

and

$$O(\varepsilon^5): \quad -u_+^2 V_{1\eta} + 3U\rho_{1\eta} - u_+^2 V_1 V_{1\xi} + Uu_+^2 V_{2\xi} - 6\rho_1 \phi_{1\xi} - 2u_+^2 \phi_{2\xi} + \frac{1}{4}\rho_{1\xi\xi\xi} = 0$$

$$\rho_{1\eta} + (\rho_1 V_1)_\xi - U\rho_{2\xi} + u_+^2 V_{2\xi} = 0 \quad (33)$$

The compatibility condition at this order can be found upon eliminating the fields ρ_2 , V_2 and ϕ_2 upon using Eqs. (32)–(33) and the definition of the velocity U . This yields the following KdV equation:

$$\rho_{1\eta} + \frac{3}{2u_+} \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}} \rho_1 \rho_{1\xi} + \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2} \frac{4\nu u_+^2 - q^2}{8\sqrt{2}u_+} \rho_{1\xi\xi\xi} = 0. \quad (34)$$

To the next order of approximation, we obtain:

$$O(\varepsilon^6) : \quad 2\rho_3 - 2q\phi_3 + \nu\phi_{2\xi\xi} = 0 \quad (35)$$

234 and

$$\begin{aligned} O(\varepsilon^7) : \quad & -3u_+^4\rho_1V_{1\eta} - u_+^6V_{2\eta} + 3Uu_+^2(\rho_1^2 + u_+^2\rho_2)V_{1\xi} - 3u_+^4\rho_1V_{1\xi} \\ & - u_+^6V_2V_{1\xi} + 3Uu_+^4\rho_1V_{2\xi} - u_+^6V_1V_{2\xi} + Uu_+^6V_{3\xi} - 6u_+^2\rho_1^2\phi_{1\xi} \\ & - 6u_+^4\rho_2\phi_{1\xi} - 6u_+^4\rho_1\phi_{2\xi} - 2u_+^6\phi_{3\xi} - \frac{1}{2}u_+^2\rho_{1\xi}\rho_{1\xi\xi} + \frac{1}{2}u_+^2\rho_1\rho_{1\xi\xi\xi} \\ & + \frac{1}{4}u_+^4\rho_{2\xi\xi\xi} = 0 \quad \text{and} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

$$\rho_{2\eta} + (\rho_1V_2 + \rho_2V_1)_\xi - U\rho_{3\xi} + u_+^2V_{3\xi} = 0. \quad (37)$$

It is now possible to follow the procedure used at the previous order and eliminate the fields ρ_3 , V_3 and ϕ_3 from Eqs. (35)–(37). Indeed, solving Eq. (35) for ϕ_3 , Eq. (37) for $\rho_{3\xi}$ and substituting into Eq. (36) eliminates every term with index 3 (recall $U^2 = 2u_+^2/q$). Furthermore, employing the equations obtained at the previous orders, we can express the fields $\phi_{1,2}$ and $V_{1,2}$ in terms of the amplitudes ρ_1 and ρ_2 , which yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2U} \int \rho_{1\eta\eta} d\xi + \rho_{1\xi} \int \rho_{1\eta} d\xi + \frac{5}{2}\rho_1\rho_{1\eta} + \rho_{2\eta} + 3U\rho_1^2\rho_{1\xi} + \frac{3c}{2}(\rho_1\rho_2)_\xi + \frac{U\nu}{2q}\rho_{1\xi}\rho_{1\xi\xi} \\ & - \frac{q-2U^2\nu}{8U^2q}\rho_{1\xi\xi\eta} - \frac{q-3U^2\nu}{4Uq}\rho_{1\rho_{1\xi\xi\xi}} - \frac{q-2U^2\nu}{8Uq}\rho_{1\xi\xi\xi} + \frac{U\nu^2}{8q^2}\rho_{1\xi\xi\xi\xi} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

To this end, we multiply Eq. (38) by ε^2 and add it to the KdV equation Eq. (34). Then, introducing the combined amplitude function

$$P = \rho_1 + \varepsilon^2\rho_2, \quad (39)$$

we solve for $\rho_1 = P - \varepsilon\rho_2$ and substitute the result into the above equation (38). We hence obtain the nonlinear evolution equation for the field $P(\xi, \eta)$

$$\begin{aligned} & P_\eta + \frac{3}{2u_+} \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}} P P_\xi + \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2} \frac{4\nu u_+^2 - q^2}{8\sqrt{2}u_+} P_{\xi\xi\xi} \\ & + \varepsilon^2 \left(b_1 P^2 P_\xi + b_2 P_\xi P_{\xi\xi} + b_3 P P_{\xi\xi\xi} + b_4 P_{\xi\xi\xi\xi} \right) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

The coefficients b_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) appearing in Eq. (42) are given by

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 &= -\frac{3}{8u_+^3} \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}, \quad b_2 = -\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2} \frac{20\nu u_+^2 - 13q^2}{32\sqrt{2}u_+^3}, \\ b_3 &= \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2} \frac{4\nu u_+^2 + q^2}{16\sqrt{2}u_+^3}, \quad b_4 = \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{5/2} \frac{48\nu^2 u_+^4 + 8\nu q^2 u_+^2 - q^4}{256\sqrt{2}u_+^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we seek an asymptotic expansion in the optical beam intensity $|u|$ as

$$|u| = u_+ + \varepsilon^2 Q + \dots, \quad (41)$$

and use the relation $|u| = \sqrt{\rho}$. This asymptotically gives $P = 2u_+Q$. The reductive nonlinear equation (40) can now be written in terms of the field $Q(\xi, \eta)$ as

$$Q_\eta + 3\sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}QQ_\xi + \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2}\frac{4\nu u_+^2 - q^2}{8\sqrt{2}u_+}Q_{\xi\xi\xi} + \varepsilon^2(c_1Q^2Q_\xi + c_2Q_\xi Q_{\xi\xi} + c_3QQ_{\xi\xi\xi} + c_4Q_{\xi\xi\xi\xi\xi}) = 0. \quad (42)$$

The coefficients c_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) appearing in Eq. (42) are given by

$$c_1 = 4u_+^2b_1, \quad c_2 = 2u_+b_2, \quad c_3 = 2u_+b_3, \quad c_4 = b_4.$$

Notice that Eq. (42) is the so-called extended KdV equation (eKdV), which can model the evolution of steeper waves, with shorter wavelengths, than those governed by the KdV equation. As such, the eKdV equation has been used to describe solitary waves in plasmas [52] and shallow water waves [53] in the presence of higher order effects. We note that the coefficient of the third derivative dispersive term changes sign when

$$\nu = \frac{q^2}{4u_+^2}. \quad (43)$$

Hence, in the high nonlocality, low power, limit, such that $\nu > q^2/(4u_+^2)$, the coefficient of the third derivative in eKdV equation is positive, so that its DSW (and solitary wave) solutions have positive polarity, with solitary waves at its leading edge and linear dispersive waves at its trailing edge. On the other hand, in the local limit, $\nu < q^2/(4u_+^2)$, the coefficient of the third derivative is negative and the DSW has negative polarity, with linear dispersive waves at its leading edge and solitary waves at its trailing edge, so that it resembles the standard NLS DSW [38]. The nematic DSW then undergoes a change of form from a KdV-type DSW to an NLS-type DSW as ν decreases at the value of the nonlocality parameter given by (43).

At this point, it is useful to make the following remarks. First, in the highly nonlocal limit, the dominant higher-order coefficient is the one of the fifth-order dispersion term, namely $c_4 \propto \nu^2$. Thus, in this limit, the eKdV equation (40) may be approximated by the Kawahara equation

$$P_\eta + \frac{3}{2u_+}\sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}PP_\xi + \left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3/2}\frac{(4u_+^2\nu - q^2)}{8\sqrt{2}u_+}P_{\xi\xi\xi} + \varepsilon^2\frac{3}{16\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)^{5/2}u_+\nu^2P_{\xi\xi\xi\xi\xi} = 0, \quad (44)$$

as was done in previous work [35,36].

3. Nonlocal to local nematic DSWs

The form and details of the DSW solution of the defocusing nematic equations (11) and (12) will be found as the nonlocality ν changes from $O(100)$ to 0, that is from the nematic having a highly nonlocal response to a local response as the optical power increases. For high nonlocality, the DSW is of KdV type, with the leading edge of the DSW consisting of solitary waves of elevation [34–36]. The reason for this can be seen from the eKdV equation (42) as for $\nu > q^2/(4u_+^2)$ the coefficient of the third derivative is positive, so that the DSW is of KdV type and has positive polarity. For $0 \leq \nu < q^2/(4u_+^2)$ the sign of the third derivative is negative and the DSW has negative polarity, with solitary waves at the trailing edge and linear dispersive waves at the leading edge, as for the NLS DSW [38]. A nematic DSW of NLS type is illustrated in Figure 2(e) for $\nu = 0.5$. Indeed, for $\nu = 0$, the nematic equations (11) and (12) reduce to the standard NLS equation on substituting for ϕ from (12) into (11). The DSW solution of the NLS equation is well known [38] as the NLS equation is integrable and so the solution is completely determined. Hence, the solution for this regime will not be considered here.

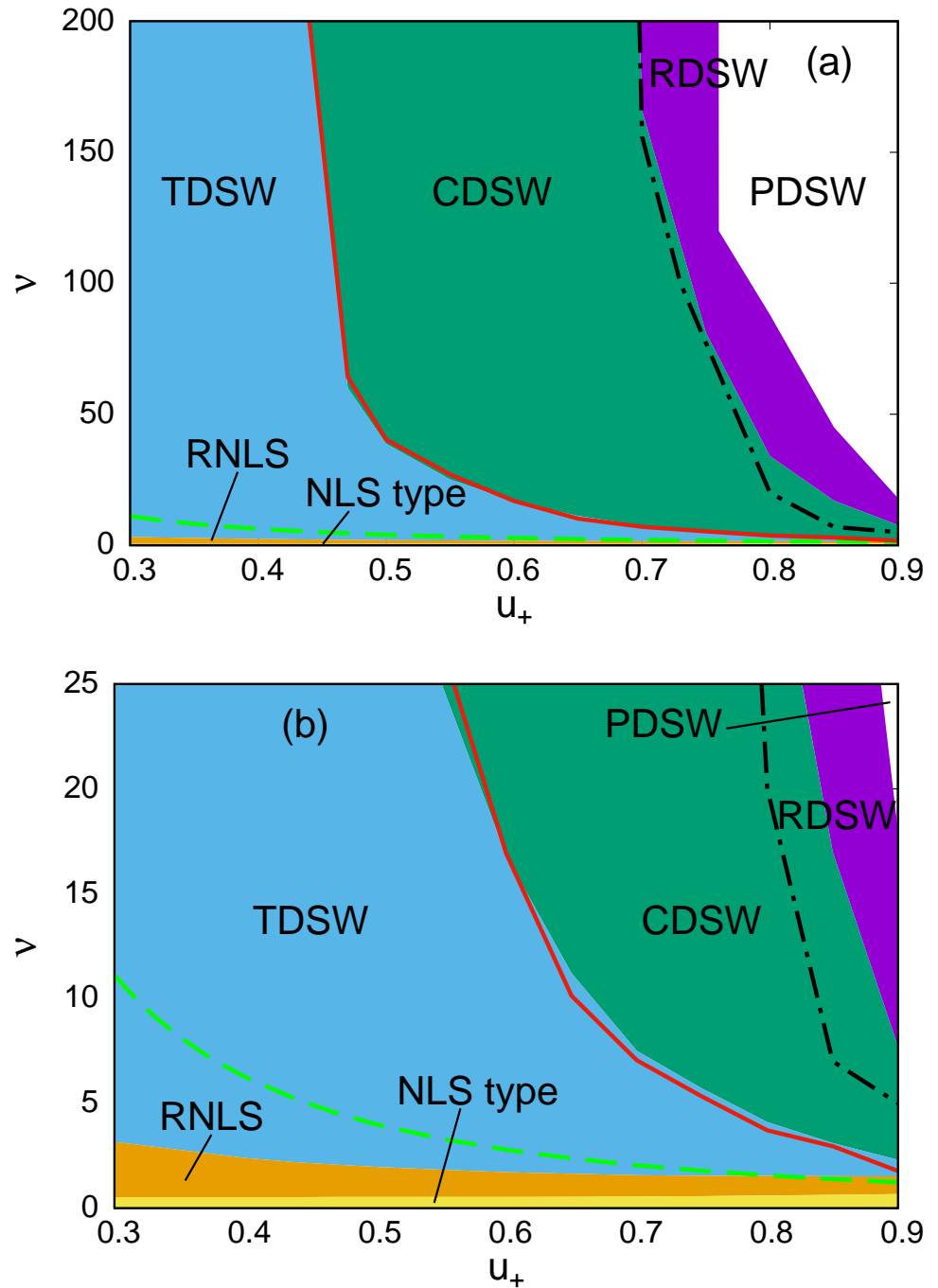


Figure 3. Numerical existence regions for nematic DSW types in terms of the nonlocality parameter ν as the initial level u_+ varies. (a) Full existence regions from highly nonlocal $\nu = 200$ to local $\nu = 0$, (b) Detail of (a) for the transition to an NLS-type DSW. Theoretical boundary (72) between RDSW and CDSW regimes: black (dot-dash) line; theoretical boundary $U_s = c_g$, (96), between CDSW and TDSW regimes: red (solid) line; theoretical boundary (43) between KdV-type and NLS-type DSW: green (dashed) line. Here $u_- = 1.0$ and $q = 2$.

The existence regions for the various nematic DSW types as the nonlocality parameter ν varies (optical power varies), found from full numerical solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12) are shown in Figure 3 as the initial level ahead u_+ varies. The range $0.3 \leq u_+ \leq 0.9$ was chosen as this encompassed all six of the DSW types studied here. In addition, most of the theoretical expressions for the boundaries between these regions and the solutions with each region were based on $u_- - u_+$ small, for example the boundary (43), which is based on the eKdV equation (42). It can be seen that over most of the (u_+, ν) domain the nematic DSW is of CDSW or TDSW type, so that it is typically unstable. In addition, it is deduced that the nematic DSW is of NLS-type only for small values of the nonlocality parameter ν of 2 and below. The nematic DSW is then nonlocal, except for high enough optical powers for which ν is small. The nonlocality parameter ν is given by (9). For the nematic liquid crystal 4-(trans-4-n-hexylcyclohexyl)-isothiocyanato-benzene (6CHBT) the parameter values are $K \sim 10^{-11}N$, $n_{\parallel} = 1.6335$ and $n_{\perp} = 1.4967$ [54]. Let us take the pre-tilt angle θ_0 to be $\pi/4$ so that the nematic response is maximised [2]. A typical beam wavelength is $1064nm$ and a typical half width W_b is $1.5\mu m$ [54]. With these parameter values, it is found that $\nu = 2$ when the beam power P_b is $288mW$, far in excess of typical beam powers of a few milliWatts to a few tens of milliWatts [2,54]. Such a large optical power can result in the nematic medium being heated enough so that its temperature goes above the critical temperature, $43^\circ C$ for 6CHBT [54], so that it undergoes a phase change out of the nematic state. In this regard, it should be noted that experimental nematic cells are small, of the order of $1mm$ in the down cell propagation direction of the beam and $100\mu m \times 10mm$ in cross-section. The thin cross-section is the direction in which the pre-tilting electric field is applied, which results in a stable and uniform molecular pre-tilt. We then deduce that for experimental beam powers, the nematic bore will be in the nonlocal response regime with ν large, that is low optical power.

4. PDSW and RDSW regimes

Typical PDSW and RDSW solutions are illustrated in Figure 2(a) and (b). In the PDSW regime the DSW is not in resonance with linear diffractive radiation, so that the DSW is of KdV type, see the boundary (43), and is a perturbed KdV-type DSW. In the PDSW regime the DSW is in resonance with diffractive radiation, so that it consists of a KdV-type DSW with resonant radiation propagating ahead of it. This resonant radiation is not large enough, however, as to destroy the KdV-type DSW structure, as in the CDSW regime, see Figure 2(c). As the DSW in the PDSW and RDSW regimes are perturbed KdV DSWs [36], the solutions in these two regimes can be found using the perturbed KdV DSW solution of [47]. In this previous work, the general eKdV equation, a particular case of which is (42), was asymptotically transformed to the KdV equation, whose known DSW solution [19,23] was then used to find the asymptotic DSW solution of the original eKdV equation. This asymptotic DSW solution can be used here based on the eKdV equation reduction (42) of the full nematic equations in the limit $u_- - u_+$ small. The work [47] then gives the following PDSW and RDSW nematic DSW solutions. The amplitude of the DSW is

$$a = 2m(u_i - u_+) + \frac{1}{3}(u_i - u_+)^2 \{m(1-m)C_1 + m(m-2)C_2 + mC_3 + 2m(8-3m)C_4\}, \quad (45)$$

its wavenumber is

$$k = \frac{\pi \sqrt{2\{u_i - u_+\}}}{K(m) \sqrt{u_+} \sqrt{\frac{v}{q} - \frac{q}{4u_+^2}}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(u_i - u_+)}{12} C_1 + \frac{(u_i - u_+)(4m^2 - 8m + 3)}{12} C_3 - \frac{(u_i - u_+)(8m^2 - 14m + 11)}{3} C_4 \right\}, \quad (46)$$

and its mean level is

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{u}| = & 2u_+ - u_i + (u_i - u_+) \left\{ m + \frac{2E(m)}{K(m)} \right\} \\ & - (u_i - u_+)^2 C_1 \left\{ \frac{3m^2 K(m) + 4mE(m) - 5mK(m) - 2E(m) + 2K(m)}{18K(m)} \right\} \\ & - (u_i - u_+)^2 C_3 \left\{ \frac{(2 - m - m^2)K^2(m) + (4m - 10)E(m)K(m) + 8E^2(m)}{6K^2(m)} \right\} \\ & + 2(u_i - u_+)^2 C_4 \left\{ \frac{(m^2 - 7m + 6)K^2(m) + 2(6m - 11)E(m)K(m) + 16E^2(m)}{3K^2(m)} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Here, $K(m)$ and $E(m)$ are complete elliptic integrals of the first and second kinds of modulus squared m , respectively. The modulus squared m is a parameter in these amplitude, wavelength and mean height expressions. It is determined in terms of the simple wave (similarity) variable x/z by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x}{z} = & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}} u_+ + \frac{\sqrt{2}(u_i - u_+)}{\sqrt{q}} \left\{ 1 + m - \frac{2m(1-m)K(m)}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right\} \\ & + \frac{(u_i - u_+)^2}{3\sqrt{2q}} C_1 \left\{ 1 + m - \frac{2m(1-m)K(m)}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right\} \\ & + \frac{(u_i - u_+)^2}{3\sqrt{2q}} C_3 \left\{ 2m - 1 - m^2 - \left(1 + m - \frac{2m(1-m)K(m)}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \frac{4m(1-m)(2E(m) + (m-1)K(m))}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right\} + \frac{4(u_i - u_+)^2}{3\sqrt{2q}} C_4 \\ & \times \left\{ -1 - m + \frac{2m(1-m)K(m)}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} + \left(1 + m - \frac{2m(1-m)K(m)}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right)^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. - 2(2m - m^2 - 1) + 4 \frac{m(1-m)[(m-1)K(m) + 2E(m)]}{E(m) + (m-1)K(m)} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

This expression for x/z derives from the characteristic of the KdV modulation equations on which the simple wave DSW solution occurs [23,24,47]. The coefficients C_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) in the above solutions are connected to c_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) through the relations

$$C_1 = \sqrt{2q}c_1, \quad C_2 = \frac{8\sqrt{2}q^{3/2}u_+}{(4u_+^2v - q^2)}c_2, \quad C_3 = \frac{8\sqrt{2}q^{3/2}u_+}{(4u_+^2v - q^2)}c_3, \quad C_4 = \frac{64\sqrt{2}q^{5/2}u_+^2}{(4u_+^2v - q^2)^2}c_4. \quad (49)$$

At the leading, solitary wave edge of the DSW $m \rightarrow 1$ and at the trailing, harmonic wave edge of the DSW $m \rightarrow 0$. It can then be found from the characteristics (48) that the DSW lies in the range

$$s_i = \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}} \left\{ 4u_+ - 3u_i - (u_i - u_+)^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}C_1 + C_3 - \frac{64}{3}C_4 \right) \right\} \\ \leq \frac{x}{z} \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}} \left\{ 2u_i - u_+ + \frac{1}{3}(u_i - u_+)^2(C_1 - C_3 + 4C_4) \right\} = s_+, \quad (50)$$

where s_i and s_+ are the harmonic and solitary wave edge velocities of the DSW, respectively.

Comparisons between the lead solitary wave amplitude a_+ as given by the asymptotic DSW solution (45), with $m = 1$, and numerical solutions are given in Figure 4 as the nonlocality parameter ν varies. The existence regions for the PDSW and RDSW types depend on both u_+ and ν , see Figure 3, so that the comparison curves for each u_+ were stopped at the boundary between the RDSW and CDSW regimes. Figure 4 shows the lead solitary wave amplitude for the full eKdV equation (42) and the Kawahara equation, which is (42) with $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$. Previous work on the nematic bore [35,36] was based on the Kawahara equation, that is only the higher order fifth derivative was included in the asymptotic eKdV equation, so the lead wave amplitude based on this equation is given in the Figure to determine the effect of the extra higher order terms in the full eKdV equation (42). A key observation is that the height of the lead wave of the DSW depends very weakly on the strength of the nonlocality, with little variation even down to $\nu = O(10)$ from the high nonlocality amplitudes with $\nu = O(100)$. In some sense, the nematic DSW is then nonlocal down to small values of ν in the PDSW and RDSW regimes, which was also deduced above from Figure 3. It can also be seen that the inclusion of the extra higher order terms in the eKdV equation (42) over the Kawahara equation improves the agreement with numerical solutions on the whole, especially as the nonlocality parameter ν decreases, but the effect of these extra terms is small, with the Kawahara equation giving good agreement over the whole range of ν and for all values of u_+ , except near the RDSW/CDSW borderline at $u_+ = 0.7$. This is expected as the weak dependence on the nonlocality parameter ν means that the DSW is nonlocal, so that ν can be taken as large. The dominant higher order term in the eKdV equation is $\varepsilon^2 c_4 Q_{\zeta\zeta\zeta\zeta\zeta}$ in this limit, as noted in (44). As $u_+ = 0.7$ is approached the resonant radiation shed by the DSW is of relatively large amplitude as in this limit the RDSW/CDSW boundary is approached. This results in oscillations in the lead wave amplitude as the resonant radiation moves through the DSW and is shed. In these cases, the numerical amplitude shown in Figure 4 was calculated as an average in z over the last few amplitude oscillations in the numerical solution. It is noted that except for $u_+ = 0.75$ and 0.7 the amplitude grows as ν decreases. This change in behaviour is due to the DSW changing form as it transitions from the RDSW to the CDSW regime, for which the resonant radiation has a major effect on the DSW with its amplitude decreasing markedly due to the large amount of mass being shed as resonant radiation [36].

The full linear dispersion relation (18) for the nematic equations (11) and (12) is

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\rho}}k}{\sqrt{\nu k^2 + 2q}} \left[\frac{\nu k^2 + 2q}{4\bar{\rho}} k^2 + 4 \right]^{1/2} + \frac{2\bar{\rho}}{q} \quad (51)$$

when the mean $2\bar{\rho}/q$ is added. This mean term arises on integrating $v = \psi_x$ to obtain the dispersion relation for ψ from that for v [35]. In the limit νk^2 large, this dispersion relation becomes (19)

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + \frac{1}{2}k^2 + \frac{2\bar{\rho}}{q} + \dots, \quad (52)$$

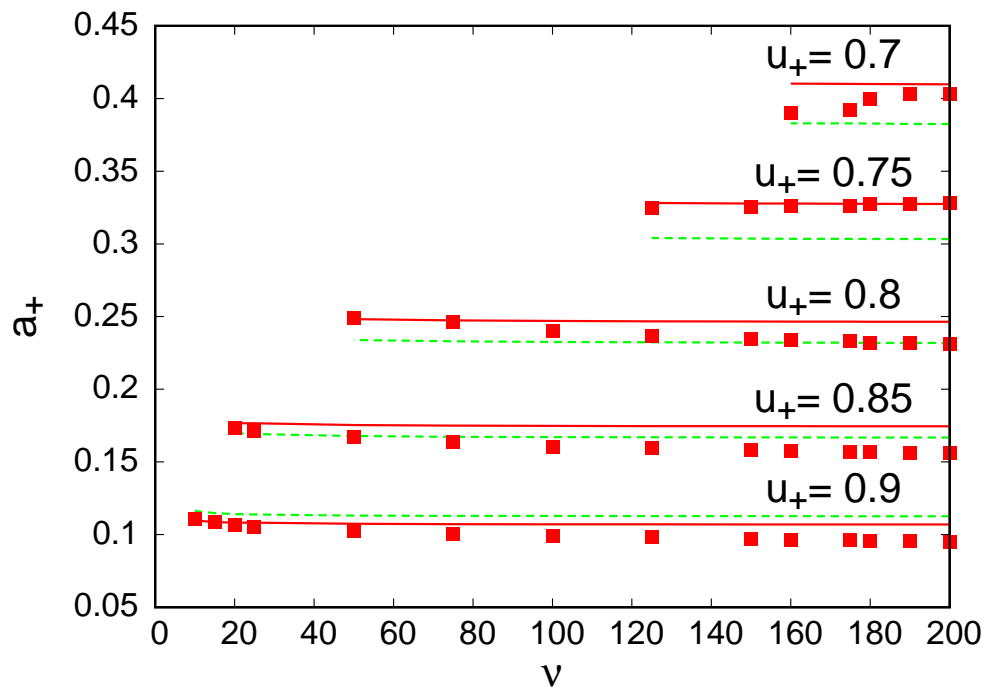


Figure 4. Comparison between lead wave amplitude s_+ of PDSW and RDSW with numerical solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12) with the initial condition (13). Numerical amplitude: red squares; amplitude (45) with $m = 1$ given by undular bore solution of eKdV equation (42): red (solid) line; amplitude given by undular bore solution of Kawahara equation (equation (42) with $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$): green (dashed) line. Here $u_- = 1.0$ and $q = 2$.

again with the carrier wave phase shift $2\bar{\rho}/q$ added to obtain the dispersion relation for ψ . In the RDSW regime the resonant wavetrain has low amplitude, see Figure 2(b). In addition, this wavetrain has high frequency relative to the DSW, again see Figure 2(b). So the appropriate dispersion relation for the resonant wavetrain is (52). In the RDSW regime, the resonance condition for the resonant wavetrain ahead of the DSW has been set by matching the phase velocity of the resonant wavetrain to the velocity of the lead wave of the DSW [34–36], giving

$$s_+ = c_r, \quad c = \bar{v} + \frac{1}{2}k + \frac{2\bar{\rho}}{qk}, \quad (53)$$

so that

$$k_r = s_+ + \left[s_+^2 - \frac{4}{q}u_+^2 \right]^{1/2} \quad (54)$$

on setting $\bar{\rho} = \sqrt{u_+}$ and $\bar{v}_+ = 0$ as the resonant wavetrain propagates on the level ahead. This gives the wavenumber of the resonant wavetrain based on this criterion. The resonant wavetrain then exists if $s_+ \geq 2u_+/\sqrt{q}$, so that the borderline between the PDSW and RDSW regimes is $s_+ = 2u_+/\sqrt{q}$. Previous work [35,36] has shown that this theoretical borderline is in excellent agreement with numerical solutions in the high nonlocality limit ν large. For fixed u_+ , as ν decreases a PDSW changes to an RDSW, then to a CDSW, see Figure 3. For instance, for $u_+ = 0.8$, the DSW changes from PDSW to RDSW at $\nu = 88$, then to CDSW at $\nu = 34$. However, the resonance condition (53), or (54), gives that the DSW changes from PDSW to RDSW at $\nu = 3$, which is the TDSW regime according to Table 1. This resonance condition is based on the limit $\nu k^2 \gg 1$, but even if the full dispersion relation (51) is used for the resonance condition (53) the predicted PDSW/RDSW borderline is $\nu = 2.38$, which is still far from the numerical value and close to that for $\nu k^2 \gg 1$. The resonance condition (53) is based on resonance

between the lead wave of the DSW and diffractive radiation. However, as pointed out previously [36], a DSW is modulated periodic wave so that all waves of the DSW can resonant with diffractive radiation, not just the lead wave, as seen in Figure 7 for a PDSW. Internal resonance will be discussed in detail in Section 5. The phase velocity of a component wave of the DSW is (72). Equating this bore component phase velocity with the nematic diffractive radiation phase velocity determined from the dispersion relation (18) determines the internal resonance. However, even using this internal resonance does not result in a borderline between the PDSW and RDSW regimes in any reasonable accord with numerical solutions, see Figure 3. A resonant wavetrain will then exist if the internally resonant waves can propagate out of the DSW, that is their group velocity is greater than the velocity of the lead solitary wave of the DSW. However, even this condition does not give the correct boundary between the PDSW and RDSW regimes as the nonlocality parameter ν decreases. The issue of internal resonance and its relation to the existence of the PDSW and RDSW regimes merits further study. In this regard, the recent work [55] on the interaction of linear wavepackets and DSWs could be relevant.

5. CDSW regime

For fixed a nonlocality parameter ν , as u_+ decreases, the jump height $u_- - u_+$ increases, the nematic DSW changes from RDSW to CDSW form, see Figures 3(b) and (c). The reason for this is that as the amplitude of the resonant wavetrain grows, it takes more conserved quantities from the DSW, so that its amplitude is reduced. In addition, the DSW becomes unstable in the CDSW regime, as for the Kahawara equation DSW [26], noting that in the small jump height limit the nematic equations reduce to the eKdV equation (42), which becomes the Kahawara equation (44) in the limit of large nonlocality ν . Figure 2(c) shows a typical nematic DSW in the CDSW regime. It can be seen that the DSW has changed from a modulated wavetrain with a monotonically decreasing amplitude from front to rear to a disordered wavetrain with an essentially uniform amplitude on average, except at its rear. This structure is in agreement with unstable DSW structure for the focussing NLS equation [56]. The unstable DSW can then be approximated by a train of equal amplitude solitary waves, which has been found to give good results for DSW solutions [57], particularly unstable DSWs, and for the particular case of the nematic CDSW in the high nonlocality, low optical power, regime [36]. The amplitude of the solitary waves of the CDSW is determined from mass and energy conservation equations for the underlying nonlinear dispersive wave equation [57].

If we set

$$B_2 = 3\sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}, \quad B_3 = \frac{4\nu u_+^2 - q^2}{8\sqrt{2}q^{3/2}u_+} \quad (55)$$

for simplicity, the eKdV equation (42) has the mass conservation equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} Q + \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left[\frac{1}{2} B_2 Q^2 + B_3 Q_{\xi\xi} + \frac{1}{3} \epsilon^2 c_1 Q^3 + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 (c_2 - c_3) Q_{\xi}^2 + \epsilon^2 c_3 Q Q_{\xi\xi} \right. \\ \left. + \epsilon^2 c_4 Q_{\xi\xi\xi\xi} \right] = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

The derivation of the energy conservation for the eKdV equation (42) is not as straightforward. Multiplying the eKdV equation by Q and integrating by parts gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \frac{1}{2} Q^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left[\frac{1}{3} B_2 Q^3 + B_3 Q Q_{\xi\xi} - \frac{1}{2} B_3 Q_{\xi}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \epsilon^2 c_1 Q^4 + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 c_2 Q^2 Q_{\xi\xi} \right. \\ \left. + \epsilon^2 c_4 Q Q_{\xi\xi\xi\xi} - \epsilon^2 c_4 Q_{\xi} Q_{\xi\xi\xi} + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 c_4 Q_{\xi\xi}^2 \right] + \epsilon^2 \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2} c_2 \right) Q^2 Q_{\xi\xi\xi} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

The final term on the right had side of this equation cannot be expressed as a perfect derivative. However, it can be approximately expressed in this form on noting that ε is small, so that at first order the eKdV equation (42) is the KdV equation

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \eta} + B_2 Q \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \xi} + B_3 \frac{\partial^3 Q}{\partial \xi^3} = 0. \quad (58)$$

We then have at leading order that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} Q^3 = -3Q^2 (B_2 Q Q_\xi + B_3 Q_{\xi\xi\xi}) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \frac{3}{4} B_2 Q^4 - 3B_3 Q^2 Q_{\xi\xi\xi}. \quad (59)$$

373 This expression may now be used to eliminate the term in $QQ_{\xi\xi\xi}$ in equation (57) to
374 give the final energy conservation equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left[\frac{1}{2} Q^2 - \varepsilon^2 \frac{c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2}{3B_3} Q^3 \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left[\frac{1}{3} B_2 Q^3 + B_3 Q Q_{\xi\xi} - \frac{1}{2} B_3 Q_\xi^2 + \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon^2 c_1 Q^4 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 c_2 Q^2 Q_{\xi\xi} + \varepsilon^2 c_4 Q Q_{\xi\xi\xi} - \varepsilon^2 c_4 Q_\xi Q_{\xi\xi\xi} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 c_4 Q_{\xi\xi}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \varepsilon^2 \frac{B_2}{4B_3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) Q^4 \right] = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

375 which is accurate to $O(\varepsilon^2)$.

To obtain an approximation to the nematic CDSW, let us assume that at position η the CDSW consists of N equal solitary waves of amplitude \tilde{a}_s and width \tilde{w}_s [57], where we shall use tildes to denote scaled variables in the moving and stretched coordinates (ξ, η) . It is also assumed that the CDSW sheds a uniform downstream resonant wavetrain of (scaled) amplitude \tilde{a}_r . Then as $\xi \rightarrow -\infty$, $Q \rightarrow 1$ and as $\xi \rightarrow \infty$, $Q \rightarrow \tilde{a}_r \cos(\tilde{k}_r \xi - \tilde{\omega}_r \eta)$, since $|u| = u_+ + \varepsilon^2 Q$ with $\varepsilon^2 = u_i - u_+$. As the CDSW is approximated by a train of solitary waves, the solitary wave solution of the eKdV equation (42) is also needed. While there is no known exact solitary wave solution of this equation, there is an asymptotic solution for $\varepsilon \ll 1$ [58]. To use this solution, the eKdV equation (42) needs to be rescaled to conform with the eKdV scaling of [58]. Performing this, we find that the asymptotic solitary wave solution of the eKdV equation (42) is

$$Q = \gamma_1 \operatorname{sech}^2 \frac{\xi - V_s \eta}{W} + \gamma_2 \operatorname{sech}^4 \frac{\xi - V_s \eta}{W}, \quad V_s = \frac{1}{3} B_2 A \left(1 + 2\varepsilon^2 C_4 A \right), \quad (61)$$

where

$$W = \frac{\sqrt{12B_3}}{\sqrt{B_2 A}}, \quad \gamma_1 = A + \varepsilon^2 C_6 A^2, \quad \gamma_2 = \varepsilon^2 C_7 A^2. \quad (62)$$

376 The rescaled coefficients c_i , $i = 1, \dots, 4$, of the eKdV equation (42), denoted by C_i , $i =$
377 $1, \dots, 4$, are given by

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \frac{6}{B_2} c_1, & C_2 &= \frac{1}{B_3} c_2, & C_3 &= \frac{1}{B_3} c_3, & C_4 &= \frac{B_2}{6B_3^2} c_4, \\ C_6 &= \frac{2}{3} C_3 - \frac{1}{6} C_1 + \frac{1}{6} C_2 - 5C_4, & C_7 &= \frac{15}{2} C_4 - \frac{1}{2} C_3 + \frac{1}{12} C_1 - \frac{1}{4} C_2. \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

378 It is noted that these scaled C_i , $i = 1, \dots, 4$, are the same as the C_i (49) used for the
379 perturbed DSW solution (45)–(48) due to the same rescaling from the eKdV equation (
380 42) being used for this solution.

The mass and energy conservation equations (56) and (60) can now be used to determine the amplitude of the solitary waves in the nematic CDSW in the equal amplitude approximation. The mass and energy conservation equations are integrated in ξ from $-\infty$ to ∞ . The integral of the mass and energy densities are approximated by

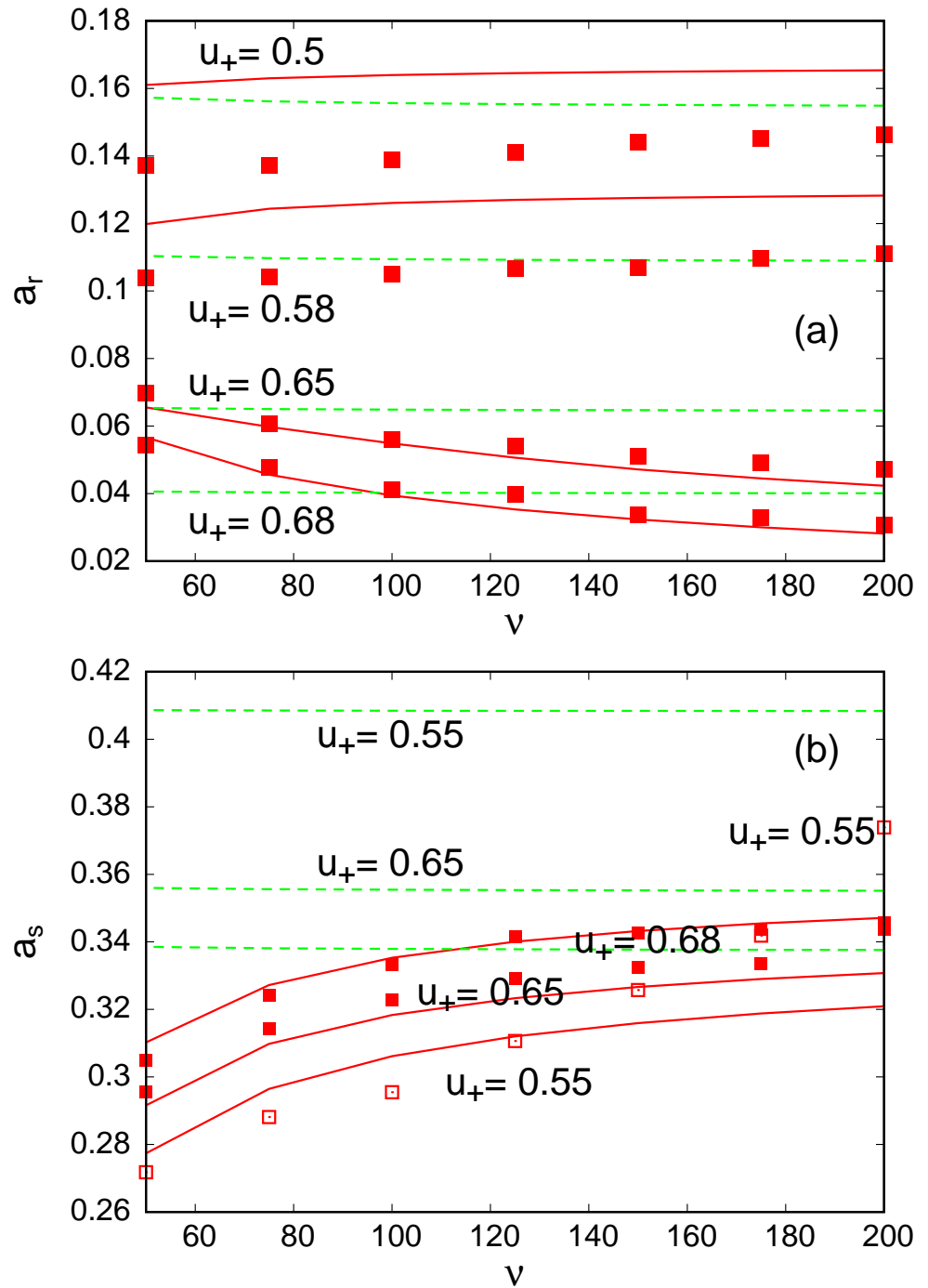


Figure 5. Comparison between theory and numerical solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12) with the initial condition (13) for the nematic CDSW. Numerical amplitude: red squares; amplitude (70): red (solid) line; amplitude given by the Kawahara equation (equation (42) with $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$): green (dashed) line. (a) Resonant wave amplitude a_r , (b) CDSW solitary wave amplitude a_s (67). Note that for clarity the numerical DSW amplitude for $u_+ = 0.55$ is denoted by red open squares. Here $u_- = 1.0$ and $q = 2$.

N times these for a single solitary wave (61). The flux terms are calculated using the boundary conditions stated above, $Q = 1$ at $\xi = -\infty$ and $Q = \tilde{a}_r \cos(\tilde{k}_r \xi - \tilde{\omega}_r \eta)$ at $\xi = \infty$. The resonant radiation flux at $\xi = \infty$ is calculated by averaging the periodic radiation over a period [36]. In this manner, integrating the mass conservation equation gives

$$N \left[2\gamma_1 + \frac{4}{3}\gamma_2 \right] W = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}B_2 + \frac{1}{3}\varepsilon^2 c_1 - \left[\frac{1}{4}B_2 + \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 (c_2 - 3c_3) \tilde{k}_r^2 \right] \tilde{a}_r^2 \right\} \eta \quad (64)$$

381 and integrating the energy conservation equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} N \left[\frac{2}{3}\gamma_1^2 + \frac{16}{15}\gamma_1\gamma_2 - \varepsilon^2 \frac{16}{45} \frac{c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2}{B_3} \gamma_1^3 \right] W &= \left\{ \frac{1}{3}B_2 + \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 c_1 \right. \\ &\quad - \varepsilon^2 \frac{B_2}{4B_3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) - \frac{1}{4} \left[-3B_3 \tilde{k}_r^2 \tilde{a}_r^2 + \frac{3}{8}\varepsilon^2 c_1 \tilde{a}_r^4 + 5\varepsilon^2 c_4 \tilde{k}_r^4 \tilde{a}_r^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \varepsilon^2 \frac{3B_2}{8B_3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) \tilde{a}_r^4 \right] \right\} \eta \\ &\sim \left\{ \frac{1}{3}B_2 + \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 c_1 - \varepsilon^2 \frac{B_2}{4B_3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) - \frac{1}{4}\tilde{c}_g \tilde{a}_r^2 \right\} \eta \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

since \tilde{a}_r is small. In addition, this neglect of quartic terms in \tilde{a}_r is consistent with the radiation being determined by a linear WKB analysis [35]. Here, \tilde{c}_g is the scaled group velocity of the resonant radiation based on (29). Dividing the mass and energy equations (64) and (65) gives an equation for A

$$\frac{\gamma_1^2 + \frac{8}{5}\gamma_1\gamma_2 - \varepsilon^2 \frac{8}{15} \frac{c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2}{B_3} \gamma_1^3}{\gamma_1 + \frac{2}{3}\gamma_2} = 4 \frac{B_2 + \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon^2 c_1 - \varepsilon^2 \frac{3B_2}{4B_3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) - \frac{3}{4}\tilde{c}_g \tilde{a}_r^2}{2B_2 + \frac{4}{3}\varepsilon^2 c_1 - [B_2 + \varepsilon^2 (c_2 - 3c_3) \tilde{k}_r^2] \tilde{a}_r^2} \quad (66)$$

in terms of \tilde{a}_r . Once A is determined the unscaled amplitude a_s of the solitary waves of the CDSW is given by

$$a_s = \varepsilon^2 \left[A + \varepsilon^2 (C_6 + C_7) A^2 \right] = (u_i - u_+) \left[A + (u_i - u_+) (C_6 + C_7) A^2 \right], \quad (67)$$

382 on using the solitary wave solution (61). Transforming back from the scaled eKdV variables to the original variables, the relation (66) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\gamma_1^2 + \frac{8}{5}\gamma_1\gamma_2 - \frac{8}{15}(u_i - u_+) \frac{c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2}{B_3} \gamma_1^3}{\gamma_1 + \frac{2}{3}\gamma_2} \\ &= 4 \frac{B_2 + \frac{3}{4}(u_i - u_+)c_1 - \frac{3B_2}{4B_3}(u_i - u_+) \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \right) - \frac{3}{4} \frac{(c_g - \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}u_+)a_r^2}{(u_i - u_+)^3}}{2B_2 + \frac{4}{3}(u_i - u_+)c_1 - [B_2 + (c_2 - 3c_3)k_r^2] \frac{a_r^2}{(u_i - u_+)^2}} \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

384 on using the scalings (29) for the eKdV equation. Substituting for the higher order
385 solitary wave coefficients γ_1 and γ_2 given by (62) gives the final equation determining
386 the amplitude of the CDSW solitary waves as

$$\begin{aligned} &A \frac{1 + 2(u_i - u_+) \left(C_6 + \frac{4}{5}C_7 \right) A - \frac{8}{15}(u_i - u_+) \left(C_3 - \frac{1}{2}C_2 \right) A}{1 + (u_i - u_+) \left(C_6 + \frac{2}{3}C_7 \right) A} \\ &= 4 \frac{B_2 + \frac{1}{8}(u_i - u_+)B_2(C_1 + 3C_2 - 6C_3) - \frac{3}{4} \frac{(c_g - \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}u_+)a_r^2}{(u_i - u_+)^3}}{2B_2 + \frac{2}{9}(u_i - u_+)B_2C_1 - [B_2 + (c_2 - 3c_3)k_r^2] \frac{a_r^2}{(u_i - u_+)^2}}. \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

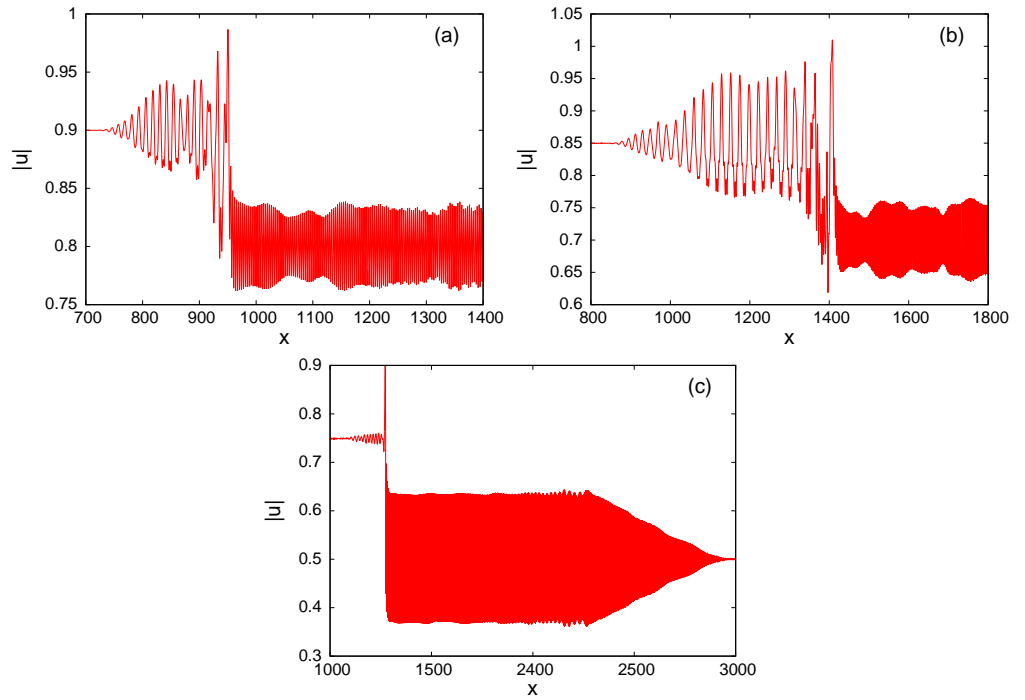


Figure 6. Numerical solution of nematic equations (11) and (12) in the CDSW regime for the initial condition (13). (a) $u_+ = 0.8$ at $z = 1000$, (b) $u_+ = 0.7$ at $z = 1500$, (c) $u_+ = 0.5$ at $z = 1500$. Here $u_- = 1.0$ and $q = 2$.

The final quantity to determine is the amplitude of a_r of the resonant radiation, which is related to the scaled amplitude \tilde{a}_r by $a_r = \varepsilon^2 \tilde{a}_r = (u_i - u_+) \tilde{a}_r$. This resonant radiation was determined as a WKB solution of the nematic equations (11) and (12) by linearising about the mean level u_+ of the resonant radiation [35]. This WKB solution gives the amplitude of the resonant radiation as

$$a_r = \frac{1}{2} \frac{u_- - u_+}{1 + \frac{2u_+ k_r a_s}{q s_+ (k_r - s_+)^2}}. \quad (70)$$

Here, s_+ is the unscaled velocity of the CDSW, which is [36]

$$s_+ = \sqrt{\frac{2}{q} u_+} + \frac{1}{3} B_2 a_s (1 + 2C_4 a_s). \quad (71)$$

387 The resonant radiation wavenumber k_r is determined by the resonance condition (54)
 388 and the group velocity of the resonant radiation is given by the k derivative of the
 389 short wave dispersion relation (52). The resonant radiation is a solution of the nematic
 390 equations in the limit $\nu k^2 \gg 1$, so that the appropriate group velocity for it is that from
 391 the dispersion relation (52), not the linearised KdV group velocity of the eKdV equation
 392 (42) [36].

393 Figure 5 displays comparisons of the nematic DSW amplitude a_s and resonant
 394 wave amplitude a_r in the CDSW regime as given by (68) and (70) and numerical solu-
 395 tions. A typical CDSW is shown in Figure 2(c), with details of the actual CDSW of
 396 this figure shown in Figure 6(a). It can be seen that the lead waves of the DSW have an
 397 approximately uniform amplitude, with a rapid decrease of the amplitude towards the
 398 trailing edge of the CDSW, as also illustrated in Figure 6(b). This solution, and that of
 399 Figure 6(a), are typical structures for an unstable DSW [56]. The numerical DSW ampli-
 400 tude for the comparisons of this figure was calculated as an average over the approxi-
 401 mately uniform waves at the leading edge, which is the same assumption on which the

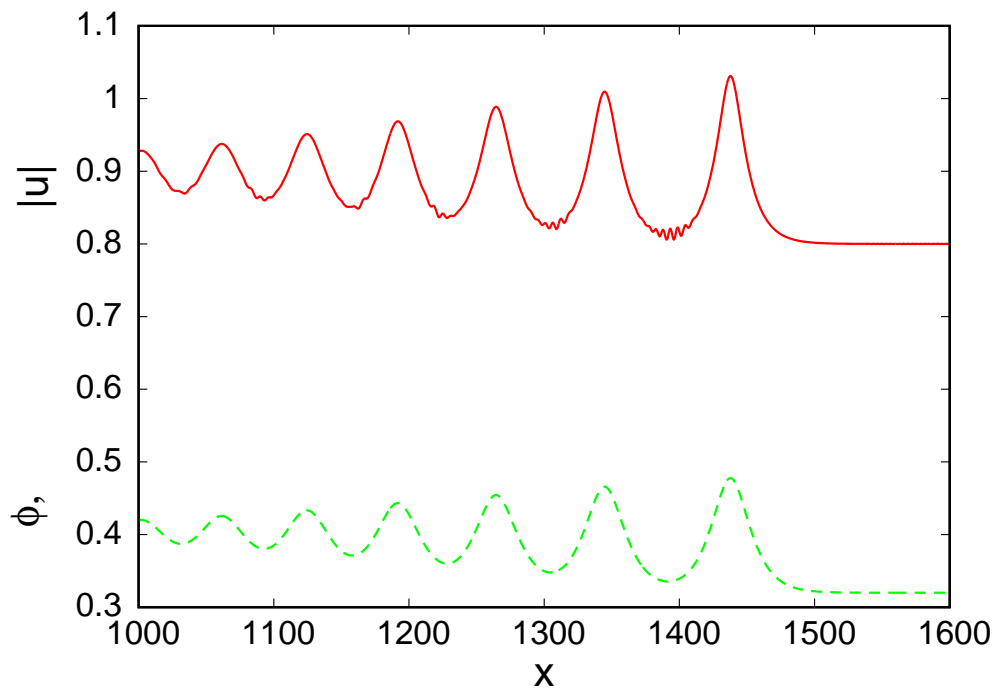


Figure 7. Numerical solution of nematic equations (11) and (12) in PDSW regime at $z = 1500$ for initial condition (13) with $u_+ = 0.8$ and $u_- = 1.0$. Red (solid) line: $|u|$; green (dashed) line: ϕ . Here $\nu = 200$ and $q = 2$.

equal amplitude approximation used to calculate the solitary wave amplitude a_s was based. Figure 5(a) shows comparisons for the amplitude a_r of the resonant wavetrain leading the CDSW, see Figure 2(c). It can be seen that there is excellent agreement between the theoretical amplitude with the numerical amplitude for the larger values of the level ahead u_+ , with the increase of a_r as the nonlocality parameter ν decreases being correctly given. This agreement is much improved through the inclusion of the all the higher order terms in the eKdV equation (42) than that of previous work [36] based on the Kawahara equation, for which $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$, as given by the green dashed line in the figure. As u_+ decreases and the TDSW regime is approached, the agreement between theory and numerical solutions decreases. This is shown particularly in the final comparison of Figure 5(a) for $u_+ = 0.5$, which is near the TDSW boundary, see Figure 3. The reason for this decreasing agreement is that as the TDSW regime is approached the number of waves in the CDSW decreases so that only one lead wave is left, see Figure 6(c). The approximation that an average can be taken over an equal amplitude wavetrain then breaks down.

Figure 5(b) displays similar comparisons for the amplitude a_s of the nematic CDSW with numerical solutions. It can be seen that the comparison for the DSW amplitude is similar to that for the resonant wave amplitude. It should be noted that different values of u_+ have been chosen for the DSW amplitude comparisons for the sake of clarity. The inclusion of all the higher order terms in the eKdV equation (42) results in a significant improvement in the agreement with numerical solutions over that based on the Kawahara equation with $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$ when the level ahead u_+ is away from the TDSW/CDSW boundary of Figure 3. As u_+ approaches the TDSW/CDSW boundary, the DSW amplitude as given by the eKdV equation differs significantly from the numerical amplitude. The reason for this is that discussed in the previous paragraph for the resonant wave amplitude, the fact that the CDSW ceases to be a train of equal amplitude solitary waves, but reduces to a few waves.

The next thing that we discuss is the analytical borderline between the nematic CDSW and RDSW regimes. This borderline can be found by determining when the

resonant amplitude (70) approaches zero or approaches a minimum as a function of the nonlocality parameter ν . The determination of this borderline is similar to that of previous work [36] in which the resonant amplitude was found as a function of the initial state u_+ , rather than ν . This approach gave a borderline for $u_+ \leq 0.73$ for large ν , with the CDSW regime not existing above this value of u_+ for large ν . Above this limit, the resonance condition (53) ceases to work as a function of ν and an alternative method needs to be found to determine the borderline. To determine the borderline in this case we exploit the fact that the (interior) structure of the nematic DSW is resonant, as evidenced in Figure 7, not only the leading, solitary wave edge. A DSW is an extended modulated periodic wavetrain, so that all its component waves can resonant, not just the leading edge. To verify this internal resonance, the phase velocity of the modulated cnoidal waves forming the DSW needs to be matched with the nematic linear phase velocity on the local mean level of the DSW. By way of illustration, we equate the DSW phase velocity [47]

$$c_p = \sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}u_+ + \frac{(u_i - u_+)}{\sqrt{2q}} \left\{ 2 + 2m - \frac{1}{7}(u_i - u_+)(8C_4 - C_3)(2m - m^2 - 1) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{3}(u_i - u_+)C_4(2 + 2m)^2 - \frac{1}{6}(u_i - u_+)(C_3 - C_1 + 4C_4)(2 + 2m) \right\}, \quad (72)$$

where C_1 , C_3 and C_4 are given in (49), with the nematic phase velocity from the full linear dispersion relation (51) on the DSW background (47) and solved for internal resonant wavenumbers, which are always positive and real, as the modulus m varies from near zero to near one. As the DSW parameter expressions (47) and (72) are only valid for a well-ranked DSW (stable DSW), such as the PDSW and the RDSW, and the CDSW is an ill-ranked DSW (unstable DSW), then a borderline exists when these wave parameter expressions result in imaginary internal resonant wavenumbers, which are unphysical, at a borderline value of ν . The mean flow \bar{v} in the dispersion relation (51) was determined from the extended KdV reduction of the nematic equations of Section 4. Substituting the $O(\varepsilon^2)$ mean flow v_1 given by (31) into the mean flow perturbation expansion (27) for v and then averaging gives

$$\bar{v} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{q}}(|\bar{u}| - u_+). \quad (73)$$

429 This then completes the determination of the CDSW/RDSW borderline. A compari-
430 son between the theoretical and numerical borderlines between the RDSW and CDSW
431 regimes is shown in Figure 3. It can be seen that the theoretical borderline is in excellent
432 agreement with the numerical borderline for large values of the nonlocality parameter
433 ν down to around $\nu = 50$, with poorer agreement towards the local limit with ν small
434 for which the DSW is changing form from KdV type to NLS type.

435 6. TDSW regime

436 Figure 2(d) displays a typical DSW in the TDSW regime. There is (almost) a con-
437 stant amplitude resonant wavetrain which at its trailing edge is connected to the in-
438 termediate level u_i . At its leading edge there is a modulated wavetrain which takes
439 u down to the level u_+ ahead. This wavetrain leading the resonant wave is a partial
440 DSW [27,36,49]. A partial DSW differs from a standard DSW in that it connects a uni-
441 form state to a periodic wavetrain, unlike a standard DSW which links two different
442 levels. While there is a negative polarity solitary wave connecting the resonant wave-
443 train to the intermediate level [26], this connection can be approximated by a Whitham
444 shock [36,48], a shock, a jump, in the modulation parameters of the wavetrain, wave-
445 length, frequency, amplitude and mean level, of the Whitham modulation equations
446 for the modulated periodic wavetrain [12]. A Whitham shock is determined from the

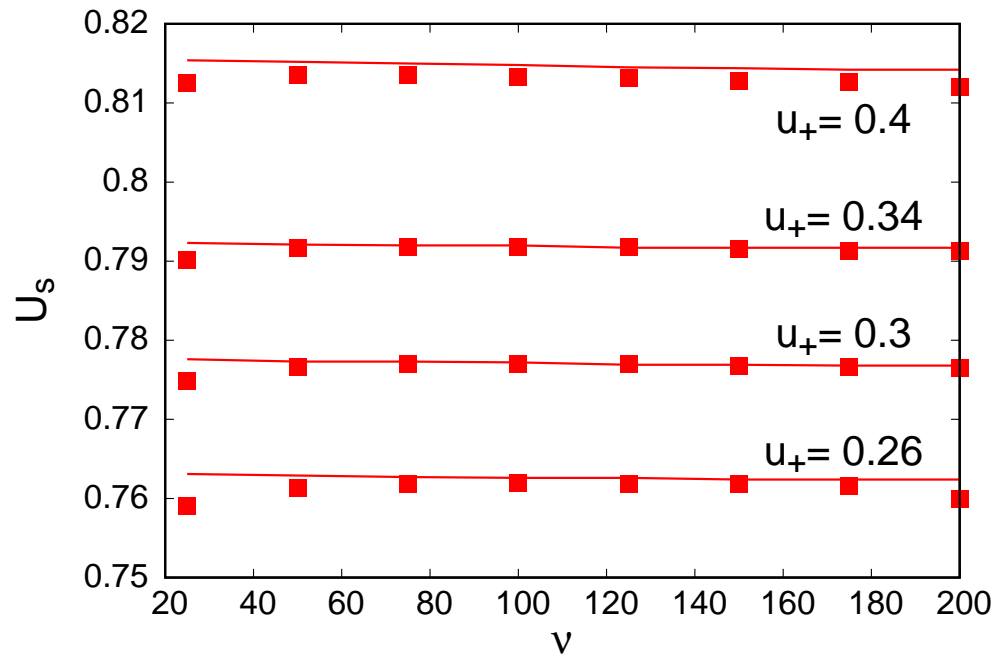


Figure 8. Comparison between the Whitham shock velocity U_s given by the modulation equation jump conditions (92)–(94) with (95) and numerical solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12) in the TDSW regime. Solution of jump conditions: red (full) line; numerical solution: red boxes. Here $u_- = 1.0$ and $q = 2$.

447 Whitham modulation equations. As noted above, the nematic DSW is in the nonlocal
 448 regime, so the appropriate Whitham modulation equations are those for ν large.

449 The Whitham modulation equations in the highly nonlocal limit $\nu \gg 1$ (low opti-
 450 cal power) have previously been determined [36], and so these modulation equations
 451 will just be quoted here. These modulation equations determine the mean level $\bar{\rho}$ of
 452 ρ , the amplitude a and the wavenumber k of the Stokes' wave solution of the nematic
 453 equations (15)–(17). As there is no known general periodic wave solution of the nematic
 454 equations, the highly nonlocal Whitham modulation equations are derived based
 455 on the weakly nonlinear Stokes wavetrain for the nematic equations [36]. It can be seen
 456 from Figure 2(d) that the resonant wavetrain has small amplitude, so the weakly non-
 457 linear limit is appropriate. In the highly nonlocal limit $\nu \gg 1$, the Stokes' wave solution
 458 of the nematic equations (15)–(17) is

$$\rho = \bar{\rho} + a \cos \varphi + \dots \quad (74)$$

$$v = \bar{v} + av_1 \cos \varphi + \dots \quad (75)$$

$$\phi = \frac{\bar{\rho}}{q} + a\phi_1 \cos \varphi + \dots \quad (76)$$

$$\omega = \omega_0 + a\omega_1 + a^2\omega_2 + \dots, \quad (77)$$

459 where the uniform phase is $\varphi = kx - \omega z$ and the over bar, $\bar{\rho}$ and \bar{v} , denotes the mean
 460 value of a wave parameter [36]. The amplitude a of the (Stokes) wave is assumed to be

small. The work of [36] gives that at $O(a)$ the nematic Stokes coefficients and the $O(a^2)$ correction to the dispersion relation are

$$\omega_0 = k\bar{v} + \frac{k^2}{2} + \frac{4\bar{\rho}}{\nu k^2} - \frac{8\bar{\rho}q}{\nu^2 k^4} - \frac{16\bar{\rho}^2}{\nu^2 k^6} + \dots, \quad (78)$$

$$v_1 = \frac{k}{2\bar{\rho}} + \frac{4}{\nu k^3} - \frac{8q}{\nu^2 k^5} - \frac{16\bar{\rho}}{\nu^2 k^7} + \dots, \quad (79)$$

$$\phi_1 = \frac{2}{\nu k^2} - \frac{4q}{\nu^2 k^4} + \dots, \quad (80)$$

$$\omega_2 = -\frac{k^2}{8\bar{\rho}^2} - \frac{3}{\bar{\rho}\nu k^2} + \frac{6q}{\bar{\rho}\nu^2 k^4} - \frac{20}{\nu^2 k^6} + \dots \quad (81)$$

The coefficient ω_1 is set to zero, $\omega_1 = 0$, to eliminate secular terms. The weakly non-linear Whitham modulation equations can then be derived by averaging conservation laws deduced from Nöther's Theorem [59]. The Lagrangian for the hydrodynamic form of the nematic equations (15)–(17) is

$$L = -2\rho\psi_z - \frac{1}{4}\frac{\rho_x^2}{\rho} - \rho\psi_x^2 - 4\rho\phi + \nu\phi_x^2 + 2q\phi^2. \quad (82)$$

Applying Nöther's Theorem we have that translation invariance with respect to the phase ψ gives the mass conservation law

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_x} = 0, \quad (83)$$

translation invariance with respect to space x yields the momentum conservation law

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \rho_z} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_z} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_z} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \rho_x} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_x} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} - L \right) = 0. \quad (84)$$

and translation invariance with respect to time-like z gives the energy conservation law

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \rho_z} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_z} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_z} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} - L \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \rho_x} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi_x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_x} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right) = 0. \quad (85)$$

Substituting the Stokes expansions (74)–(76) into these conservation laws and averaging by integrating in φ from 0 to 2π [12] yields the modulation equations, truncated to $O(1/\nu)$,

$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(k\bar{v} + \frac{k^2}{2} + \frac{2\bar{\rho}}{q} + \frac{4\bar{\rho}}{\nu k^2} - \frac{k^2 a^2}{8\bar{\rho}^2} - \frac{3a^2}{\nu \bar{\rho} k^2} \right) = 0, \quad (86)$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\bar{\rho}\bar{v} + \frac{ka^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{2a^2}{\nu k^3} \right) = 0, \quad (87)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\bar{\rho}\bar{v} + \frac{ka^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{2a^2}{\nu k^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}^2}{q} + \bar{\rho}\bar{v}^2 + \frac{k^2 a^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{\bar{v}ka^2}{2\bar{\rho}} + \frac{4\bar{v}a^2}{\nu k^3} + \frac{a^2}{\nu k^2} \right) = 0, \quad (88)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\bar{\rho}\bar{v}^2 + \frac{2\bar{\rho}^2}{q} + \frac{k^2 a^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{k\bar{v}a^2}{2\bar{\rho}} + \frac{4a^2}{\nu k^2} + \frac{4\bar{v}a^2}{\nu k^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\bar{\rho}\bar{v}^3 + \frac{4\bar{v}\bar{\rho}^2}{q} + \frac{ka^2}{q} + \frac{k^3 a^2}{4\bar{\rho}} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{3\bar{v}k^2 a^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{3\bar{v}^2 ka^2}{4\bar{\rho}} + \frac{6\bar{v}a^2}{\nu k^2} + \frac{6\bar{v}^2 a^2}{\nu k^3} + \frac{2a^2}{\nu k} \right) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

for the (slowly varying) amplitude a , wavenumber k and means $\bar{\rho}$ and \bar{v} of the modulated Stokes wave [12].

The modulation equation (87) is that for optical power conservation, equation (88) is momentum conservation and (89) is energy conservation. The modulation equa-

tion (86) is the equation for conservation of waves, $k_z + \omega_x = 0$, on noting that the x derivative term is just the dispersion relation (77). In this regard, it should be noted that the dispersion relation for the Stokes' wave from which the modulation equations are calculated has the carrier waves' phase shift term $2\bar{\rho}/q$ added [35,36], as explained above,

$$\omega = k\bar{v} + \frac{1}{2}k^2 + \frac{2\bar{\rho}}{q} + \frac{4\bar{\rho}}{\nu k^2} - \frac{k^2 a^2}{8\bar{\rho}^2} - \frac{3a^2}{\nu k^2 \bar{\rho}}. \quad (90)$$

Figure 2(d) shows that in the TDSW regime the KdV-type nematic bore structure of Figures 2(a)–(c) has disappeared, leaving a dominant resonant wavetrain which is linked to the intermediate level u_i by a negative polarity solitary wave [26]. As discussed above, this link between the resonant wavetrain and the intermediate level can be approximated by a Whitham shock, a jump in the modulation equation variables [36,48], so that the Whitham shock links the resonant wavetrain with the level u_i behind, in a similar manner to a gas dynamic shock wave links two compressible flow states [12]. Let us denote the amplitude, wavenumber, mean level and mean phase gradient of the resonant wavetrain by a_r , k_r , $\bar{\rho}_r$ and \bar{v}_r , respectively. Matching the Whitham shock velocity U_s to the Stokes' wave velocity (90), as these are co-propagating, gives

$$U_s = \bar{v}_r + \frac{1}{2}k_r + \frac{2\bar{\rho}_r}{qk_r} + \frac{4\bar{\rho}_r}{\nu k_r^3} - \frac{k_r a_r^2}{8\bar{\rho}_r^2} - \frac{3a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3 \bar{\rho}_r}. \quad (91)$$

468 Ahead of the Whitham shock there is the resonant wavetrain and behind it is a flat shelf,
469 the intermediate level, which is a wavetrain of zero amplitude. The mass, momentum
470 and energy conservation equations (87)–(89) then give the jump conditions

$$U_s(\bar{\rho}_r - \rho_i) = \bar{\rho}_r \bar{v}_r + \frac{k_r a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{2a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3} - \rho_i v_i, \quad (92)$$

$$U_s \left(\bar{\rho}_r \bar{v}_r + \frac{k_r a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{2a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3} - \rho_i v_i \right) = \frac{\bar{\rho}_r^2}{q} + \bar{\rho}_r \bar{v}_r^2 + \frac{k_r^2 a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{\bar{v}_r k_r a_r^2}{2\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{4\bar{v}_r a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3} + \frac{a_r^2}{\nu k_r^2} - \frac{\rho_i^2}{q} - \rho_i v_i^2, \quad (93)$$

$$U_s \left(\bar{\rho}_r \bar{v}_r^2 + \frac{2\bar{\rho}_r^2}{q} + \frac{k_r^2 a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{k_r \bar{v}_r a_r^2}{2\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{4a_r^2}{\nu k_r^2} + \frac{4\bar{v}_r a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3} - \rho_i v_i^2 - \frac{2\rho_i^2}{q} \right) = \bar{\rho}_r \bar{v}_r^3 + \frac{4\bar{v}_r \bar{\rho}_r^2}{q} + \frac{k_r a_r^2}{q} + \frac{k_r^3 a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{3\bar{v}_r k_r^2 a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{3\bar{v}_r^2 k_r a_r^2}{4\bar{\rho}_r} + \frac{6\bar{v}_r a_r^2}{\nu k_r^2} + \frac{6\bar{v}_r^2 a_r^2}{\nu k_r^3} + \frac{2a_r^2}{\nu k_r} - \rho_i v_i^3 - \frac{4v_i \rho_i^2}{q} \quad (94)$$

across the Whitham shock. Together with the resonance condition (91), these form four equations for the five unknowns U_s , a_r , k_r , $\bar{\rho}_r$ and \bar{v}_r , noting that ρ_i and v_i are given by (24) and (25), respectively. The final equation is obtained by assuming that the Riemann invariant R_- (22) is conserved through the resonant wavetrain and its lead partial DSW, which is valid for a full DSW [19,50]. This then determines the mean of the resonant phase gradient \bar{v}_r [36]. This Riemann invariant condition gives

$$\bar{v}_r = 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}(\sqrt{\bar{\rho}_r} - \sqrt{\rho_+}) = 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{q}}(\sqrt{\bar{\rho}_r} - u_+). \quad (95)$$

471 The above nematic Whitham modulation equation jump conditions (92)–(94) with
472 (95) can be solved numerically for U_s , a_r , k_r and $\bar{\rho}_r$ using Newton's method. The full
473 details for this numerical solution of the Whitham shock jump conditions can be found
474 in [36]. Figure 8 shows comparisons for the Whitham shock velocity from the nonlocal
475 to local limits, the optical power increasing, as given by the jump conditions and full numerical
476 solutions of the nematic equations (11) and (12). The values of the level ahead
477 u_+ were chosen to lie in the TDSW regime, see Figure 3. It can be seen that there is excel-

478 lent agreement between the theoretical and numerical solutions from high nonlocality,
 479 ν large, down to $\nu = O(10)$. As for the lead solitary wave amplitude comparison of
 480 Figure 4 there is little change in the Whitham shock velocity as the nonlocality parameter
 481 ν varies by an order of magnitude, with only a small increase in the velocity. There
 482 is a small, increasing deviation between the theoretical and numerical values towards
 483 $\nu = 20$. This is due to the onset on the VDSW regime for which u vanishes at a point,
 484 a vacuum point [35,36]. Once the vacuum point is reached, $|u|$ cannot decrease further,
 485 so that the Whitham shock jump conditions need to be modified [36]. This will not be
 486 pursued further here.

For a fixed level ahead u_+ , as the nonlocality parameter ν decreases (optical power increases), the nematic DSW evolves from CDSW to TDSW type, see Figure 3. The borderline between the CDSW and TDSW regimes can be determined from the Whitham shock jump conditions (92)–(94) and the resonance condition (91) based on the following condition. For a fixed nonlocality parameter ν , as the level ahead u_+ increases, it is found that the Whitham shock velocity becomes greater than the linear group velocity

$$c_g = \bar{v}_r + k_r - \frac{8\bar{\rho}_r}{\nu k_r^3} \quad (96)$$

487 of the resonant wavetrain. This is unphysical as this would mean that the resonant
 488 wavetrain could not form. Figure 3 shows this theoretical bound between the CDSW
 489 and TDSW regimes as a red line. It can be seen that the agreement with numerical
 490 solutions is excellent over the entire range of ν , even for jump heights $u_- - u_+$ which
 491 are not small.

492 As ν decreases, it would be expected that the high nonlocality modulation equations
 493 (86)–(89) cease to be applicable. The Whitham modulation equations for the nematic
 494 equations in the local limit, ν small, were calculated based on the equivalent of
 495 the Stokes' wave expansions (74)–(77) and (78)–(81), expanding in ν rather than $1/\nu$.
 496 However, these were found not to give solutions in good agreement with numerical
 497 solutions. This is expected as Figures 3 and 4 show that the nematic DSW is highly
 498 nonlocal down to very small values of ν , which are unphysical, as discussed at the end
 499 of Section 3.

500 7. RNLS and NLS DSW Regimes

501 The KdV approximation (44) gives that the DSW changes from KdV to NLS type
 502 at $\nu = q^2/(4u_+^2)$ due to the change in sign of the coefficient of the third derivative, as
 503 discussed above, and as shown in Figure 3. It should be noted that numerical solutions
 504 do not show a distinct change in DSW type, but a transition from a KdV-type DSW to
 505 an NLS-type DSW, as seen in Figures 2(d) and (e) and as shown by the two regimes
 506 RNLS and NLS type in Figure 3. The TDSW regime is characterised by a negative polarity
 507 solitary wave connecting the resonant wavetrain to the intermediate level, as in
 508 Figure 2(d). As the nonlocality ν decreases, the beam power increases, the height of
 509 this solitary wave decreases, resulting in the RNLS regime which consists of a Whitham
 510 shock connecting a resonant wavetrain to the intermediate level u_i . Ahead of the resonant
 511 wavetrain is a partial NLS-type DSW which connects to the level ahead u_+ , see
 512 Figure 2(e). As ν decreases further, the resonant wavetrain shrinks and the partial DSW
 513 becomes a full NLS DSW with solitary waves at its trailing edge and linear waves at
 514 its leading edge, resulting in an NLS DSW for sufficiently small ν , see Figure 3(b). In
 515 the limit the NLS DSW alone links the intermediate level to the level ahead. As ν decreases
 516 in the RNLS regime, the waves at the trailing edge of the partial DSW evolve
 517 from weakly nonlinear Stokes waves to fully nonlinear periodic waves, then solitary
 518 waves in the NLS DSW regime.

519 The intermediate RNLS state, illustrated in Figure 2(e), consists of a resonant wave-
 520 train with the height of the negative polarity solitary wave at the Whitham shock negligible.
 521 To compare the KdV-NLS DSW boundary $\nu = q^2/(4u_+^2)$ with numerical solu-

tions, the choice of the height of this solitary wave being 5×10^{-3} above u_i was chosen for the onset of the RNLS regime in numerical solutions. It can be seen that there is good agreement for this regime boundary for u_+ close to u_- , but there is increasing disagreement as u_+ decreases. This is expected as the reductive nematic eKdV equation (42) was derived under the assumption that $|u_- - u_+|$ is small.

8. Conclusions

The structure of the nematic DSW (dispersive shock wave) solution of the defocussing nematic equations governing the propagation of an optical beam through a cell filled with nematic liquid crystals has been investigated using a combination of numerical solutions of the equations governing the beam, consisting of an NLS-type equation for the optical beam and an elliptic medium response equation, and solutions of the governing nematic equations using Whitham modulation theory and/or asymptotic solutions. In contrast to previous work [34–36] the evolution of the DSW structure was studied as the power of the optical beam varied, from the experimental low power for which the nematic response is nonlocal to high power for which the response is local. As the beam power varies, it was found that the nematic DSW transitions between six regimes, four of which were studied in previous work [34–36]. The two NLS-type DSWs do not exist in the low power regime studied in this previous work. However, the experimental verification of these high power DSW types is questionable as the powers required for their existence are unrealistic due to the possible excessive medium heating the high beam powers would cause. Excellent agreement was found between numerical solutions and analytical solutions for the four physically relevant DSW regimes, the PDSW, RDSW, CDSW and TDSW regimes displayed in Figure 2(a)–(d). In particular, the analytical theory gives good agreement for the boundaries between the existence regions for five of the DSW types as the nonlocality parameter ν varies, the exception being the boundary between the PDSW and RDSW regimes.

It has been found that the details of the nematic DSW, for instance its lead wave amplitude and velocity and the amplitude of the associated resonant radiation, are well approximated by the nematic equations in the high nonlocality limit, the nonlocality parameter ν large, as the DSW transitions to the local limit. This holds for the PDSW, RDSW, CDSW and TDSW regimes with the nonlocality parameter ν ranging from $O(100)$ to $O(1)$. As the analysis of the nematic DSW is much easier in the high nonlocality limit based on asymptotic analyses with $\nu \gg 1$, this is an important result for future analysis of the nematic DSW in its various regimes and over its nonlocality range.

There are still a number of issues which could be addressed by the future work. An outstanding issue is the correct determination of resonance between the nematic DSW and diffractive radiation. In contrast to the high nonlocality limit with ν large [34–36], as ν decreases from the high to the low nonlocality limit, the beam power increases, the resonance condition used in previous work in the RDSW and CDSW regimes that the velocity of the lead solitary wave of the DSW matches the linear phase velocity of the resonant waves does not agree with numerical solutions. The theoretical transition from the PDSW regime for high nonlocality to the RDSW regime due to the onset of resonance as ν decreases occurs for $\nu = O(1)$, while numerical solutions show the transition for $\nu = O(100)$ to $O(10)$. As noted in previous work [36], and in contrast with other work on resonant DSWs, not only is the lead wave of the DSW in resonance with diffractive radiation, but the whole modulated periodic wave which forms the DSW is in resonance. However, even this observation does not yield the correct resonance condition for the RDSW regime as the nonlocality parameter ν decreases below the highly nonlocal limit. The correct resonance condition between the DSW and diffractive radiation requires further study. This should be an important general issue for all resonant DSWs beyond the specific application to nematic liquid crystals.

- 574 **Acknowledgments:** Saleh Baqer thanks the research sector of Kuwait University for a Research
 575 Initiation Grant (RIG) given during the preparation of the paper.
- 576 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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